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# The Playground

DECEMBER, 1924

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A Christmas Party . . . . . Era Betzner

The Eleventh Recreation Congress . . . Weaver Pangburn

Report of Meetings of Recreation Executives

Dr. Finley's Congress Address

Community Drama at the Recreation Congress

The Olympic Games and the American Playground  
Gustavus T. Kirby

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# The Playground

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## MEMBERSHIP

Any person contributing five dollars or more shall be a member  
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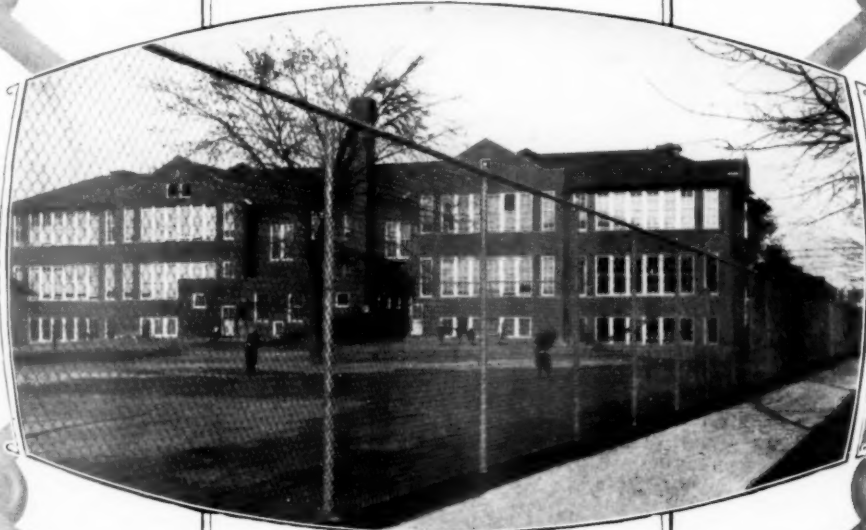
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# The Playground

VOL. XVIII, No. 9.

DECEMBER, 1924

## The World at Play

### Golf Greens Grown under Electric Light.

—In order to perfect the turf on the greens in one-fourth of the usual time, electric lights were used to grow grass at the new million-dollar golf club at Bradley Beach. Twenty-four reflectors, each containing 1000 Watt lamp, were installed. Reflectors were suspended from cables four feet above the ground and seven feet high. The green was seeded with "creeping bent" and two months after the seeding was put in the green was ready. Through this process six or seven months were saved.

**Library Service through the Elizabeth McCormick Memorial Fund.**—The Elizabeth McCormick Memorial Fund, 848 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, announces that its library is at the disposal of all health and social service workers and others interested in child welfare.

This library entirely devoted to child welfare subjects was the first of its kind to be established in this country and is unique in many respects. It contains several thousand volumes on nutrition, health education, school hygiene, mental hygiene, child labor and child psychology and all the standard periodicals. A trained librarian's help may be secured in connection with the gathering together of material for special study or research.

A package service is maintained, certain of the publications being available for loans for stated times. The only expense in this connection is the cost of transportation both ways.

The Elizabeth McCormick Memorial Fund will be glad to receive visits and communications from those wishing to avail themselves of the library service.

**A Film for Children's Book Week.**—The Bray Screen Products, Inc., in cooperation with the American Library Association has prepared a film of still pictures which shows what books mean to boys and girls who are fortunate enough to possess them or to have access to them. The

series of 64 pictures shows among other views travelling libraries, story hours in parks and playgrounds, pictures of well-equipped school libraries and many others. The film, which is four feet long, is particularly well-adapted for use during Children's Book Week. It may be obtained from Bray Screen Products, Inc., New York City.

**Graded List of Stories to Tell or Read Aloud.**—This list may be obtained from the American Library Association, 86 East Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois.

**A New Publication in the Social Work Field.**—*Social Welfare Administration* is the name of a new bi-monthly magazine issued by the publishers of *Better Times*, the organ of New York charitable and social work. The new publication is intended for executives and directors of charitable organizations, welfare institutes and other social agencies throughout the United States and Canada, and is exclusively devoted to their administrative and management problems. It deals with such subjects as office management, record keeping, publicity, money raising, purchasing, printed matter, accounting and committee organization. These are all problems which many recreation executives have in common with welfare workers.

George Hecht, Editor of the magazine, will be glad to receive requests for free sample copies at the publication office, 100 Gold Street, New York City. The subscription price is \$1.00 a year or \$2.00 with *Better Times*.

**Highway Education Essay Contest.**—The Highway Education Board of Washington, D. C., announces the Fourth Prize Essay Competition designed to train children in careful conduct on streets and highways and to impress upon them a sense of personal responsibility. All pupils of the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades are eligible to compete. Pupils are requested to write

essays on the subject *My Conduct on Streets and Highways*, while teachers will prepare practical lessons for use in the class room. Many prizes and other awards will be made.

Information may be secured by addressing the Highway Education Board, Willard Building, Washington, D. C.

**A School Health Program Contest.**—The American Child Health Association, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City, announces an interesting contest in school health programs. Secondary schools are invited to make a study of their school health programs during the second half of the present school year and to submit them for comparison with other programs. One thousand dollars will be evenly divided among the three schools contributing the three leading programs. This sum of money will be used by the schools to promote health projects.

Application for enrollment must be made to the Association by January 10th.

**In the Interest of Rural Recreation.**—At the Grange Community Leadership School, at Pennsylvania State College, August 21 to 27, demonstrations and talks were given in the planning and conducting of rural community programs, play and other social and recreational activities. Students of the course actually staged the plays, planned the stage lighting, and made the costumes, using only such equipment and facilities as are found in the ordinary rural community. One hour each day was given to talks by prominent rural leaders.

Neighborhood activities associated with the Lakeview Consolidated School, an open-country consolidated school in Michigan, include a community club, boys' and girls' clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Reserves, a glee club, dramatic club, athletic association, gymnasium club, and parent-teacher association, according to Edith A. Lathrop in the September number of *School Life*, a publication of the United States Bureau of Education.

**A Playground Project in China.**—From the Canadian Methodist Mission at Fouchow, Szechuen, a far western province in China, comes the following:

"I suppose you heard of the dreadful fire we had last spring in Fouchow, Szechuen. All the buildings round the church were burned to the ground and the church not touched. Part of the

baby welfare equipment was burnt. It was a wonder that any of it was saved. Five of the largest temples in the city were completely destroyed. The property on which they stood is now for sale and we can buy it at a reasonable price. I have written home trying to raise money for the property next to the church for a playground and recreation ground for mothers and children. I do not know whether I will be able to raise any or not but it is worth while trying. The property is right in the center of the city and just think how lovely that would be to buy it and have it all planted with grass, trees and flowers, and have slides, seesaws and swings. It would be a regular garden of Eden right in the center of a city of filth. How it would speak of the love of the true God! If we do not buy the property soon, temples will be rebuilt and we shall lose our unique opportunity."

**Expenditures for Recreation.**—The Federal Service Bureau has issued a pamphlet giving the financial statistics of states for the year 1922, including a statement of the expenditures which have been made by state governments for recreation purposes. The report shows that \$1,869,609, or two cents per capita, were expended by the states for recreation. The figures given include general recreation, educational recreation, playgrounds, park reservations and monuments.

The state expenditures for 1922 are almost double the expenditures for 1917.

**New York State Park Bond Issue Carries.**—Proposition No. 1, voted upon by New York State on Election Day, was carried by nearly a million votes. The bond issue of \$15,000,000 will provide for the development of eleven state park projects.

The Alleghany State Park in southwestern New York, the Niagara State Reservation, and a Long Island Park system development will be benefited. New tracts will be opened up and old developments improved. The people of the Empire State have recognized the true economy of securing recreative space for the people before the land has been used for other purposes.

**A Gift for Winsted, Connecticut.**—L. W. Tiffany, of Winsted, has purchased thirty acres of ground which will later be turned over to the city for use as a play center. A play field has been laid out with complete apparatus, a wading

pool, large swimming pool, tennis courts and baseball diamond. A field house will later be built.

**Another Gift.**—E. E. Baker of Kewanee, Illinois, has given the city for park purposes 110 acres of land. This is in addition to a recent gift of \$50,000. He will also contribute each year \$5,000 for maintenance.

**The New Newton.**—*Making the New Newton* was the subject of the All-Newton Welfare Conference held on October 16 in Newton, Massachusetts, under the auspices of the Newton Cen-

keep and appearance of the ground on the children and citizens of the neighborhood, and the results were surprising. Each ground made long strides in usefulness and looks. A piece of apparatus was awarded the playground making the best showing.

Another feature of the recreation program was a series of band concerts held on several neighborhood playgrounds. This was financed by the special one-half mill tax levied in compliance with the authorization granted at the spring election of 1923.

**Evanston's Annual Report.**—The report of



PLAYGROUND EXHIBIT AT CENTRAL COUNCIL WELFARE EXHIBIT, WEST NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS, INCLUDING THE MOVABLE BABY HYGIENE OUTFIT USED BY THE PLAYGROUND DEPARTMENT FOR MOTHERCRAFT AND BABY HYGIENE ACTIVITIES

tral Council. The importance of recreation and the recreation program of Newton were featured in the program and there were demonstrations of folk dancing by public school children.

**In Clarksburg, West Virginia.**—A Better Grounds contest was one of the activities promoted this year on the Clarksburg, West Virginia, playgrounds, according to the report of the City Manager for the year ending June 30, 1924. The contest placed part of the responsibility for up-

the first summer operation of the playgrounds of Evanston, Illinois, by the Bureau of Recreation took the form of a pageant entitled *Vacation Days*. Good Health, Athletics, Handcraft, Music, Folk Dancing, Boys' Organization and Drama, were the subjects of the various episodes. The production represented the united efforts of the entire playground staff and children, with the assistance of many interested parents.

**A Recreation Picnic.**—Last summer the



Recreation Board of Elwood, Indiana, arranged a children's community picnic at which 3,500 children were guests. Six hundred participated in the games, which were on a team basis, 12 teams of 50 members each.

**A Generous Offer from Johnstown, Pennsylvania.**—At the Recreation Congress at Atlantic City the Municipal Recreation Commission of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, had an interesting exhibit of the handcraft articles made by the children on the playgrounds. Leo J. Buettner, Secretary of the Commission, who was in charge of the exhibit, received many requests for sample articles from workers in all parts of the country. The following letter has just been received from Mr. Buettner, containing an offer of which many workers will want to avail themselves.

"I told the members of the Commission of the many requests I had from recreation workers for permission to take back with them to their respective communities dolls, rugs, beads. The members of the Commission feel as I do that if these articles will help other communities to get started on work of this kind we will be glad to send any of the articles upon request to any recreation official who will write for the same. We will be glad to do this on one condition and that is that the doll, rug or whatever article it may be will be returned to us within ten days or two weeks. Our collection includes the following: Rag dolls, rugs, bead necklaces, button dolls, cork toys, wooden toys and handkerchiefs. We have about twenty of each and will be glad to let them go to other cities."

Requests should be addressed to Leo J. Buettner, Secretary, Municipal Recreation Commission, Johnstown, Pa.

**A Playground Platform.**—Last summer under the leadership of John I. Garside, Superintendent of Parks and Playgrounds, Fitchburg, Mass., a Junior Government plan was worked out for the playgrounds of the city. One of the candidates for the mayoralty presented the following platform:

*If I WAS Elected "Mayor"*

- 1.—I would see that this playground was made the best in this City.
- 2.—I would see that all the children belonging to this playground were treated fair and square.
- 3.—I would start a petition for drinking water for our playground.

4.—I would divide up the time so that everyone would have a chance to play or ride on anything.

5.—I would elect worthy policemen, ones that were really fit for the job.

6.—I would see that City property was protected.

7.—I would have no favoritism among the members of the playground.

8.—I would see that every member of this playground played a part in the sports.

9.—I would see that the policemen punished only those who did wrong.

10.—I would see that the government of this playground was—"of the people, by the people, and for the people."

**No Waste Space.**—Herman J. Norton, Director of physical education in the Rochester public schools, has an interesting plan for the utilization of gymnasium floor space in two of the junior high schools. By using two nets the gymnasiums, which are 60' x 90' in size, are divided into three courts, each 30' x 60', suitable for conducting three distinct types of activities at the same time. One court is laid out for basketball, a highly specialized game; another is marked for games that require a rectangular playing space, such as volley ball; and the third is planned for circle games, such as dodge ball. In this way 75 to 90 boys may be accommodated, 25 to 30 in each group. During a school day of seven hours, plus one after-school recreation club period, 525 to 630 pupils can be handled. This makes a weekly total of 2,625 to 3,150. If desired, each period can be divided into three parts and the groups can rotate so that each pupil has an opportunity to participate in all three activities.

(From the Journal of the New York State Teachers Association, June, 1924)

**Interesting Developments in Anderson, Indiana.**—Reports from Anderson point to a splendid recreation development, placing the city on the list of those having year-round recreation with a Superintendent of Recreation and a progressive program. For this development the city is indebted to the foresight and insight of Mayor Blanchard Horne, who is bending his energies to securing facilities which will make possible a broad program.

A 5% tax levy passed by the Council and available early in 1925 will provide practically \$20,000 as a recreation budget. A \$40,000 swimming pool will soon be constructed. The Music Committee



functioning as a part of the Recreation Council has organized a municipal orchestra and band. There are four community associations working out neighborhood social programs. The new \$60,000 community center gymnasium seating 4,000 people is about complete. While it will be used for high school basketball games, it will also serve as an athletic and social center for the entire community.

A municipal golf course is under construction. So great was the interest in this phase of the program that within 24 hours over 150 citizens were organized by H. W. Roberts, Chairman of the Recreation Council, into a golf association. These citizens paid a \$10 membership and became charter members of the association.

A great historical pageant will be presented during the coming year under the auspices of the Council.

**Music Week in San Francisco and Its Outgrowth.**—That Music Week has meant much to the development of San Francisco's community music program was the testimony of J. Emmett Hayden, Supervisor and Chairman of the Music Week Committee, who in reviewing the results of the four Music Weeks which the city has had mentioned four outstanding accomplishments:

1. The establishment of a series of municipally subsidized concerts given annually by the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. Last year the city appropriated \$10,000 for these concerts.
2. The presentation in the municipal auditorium of the San Francisco Civic Grand Opera Company with world famous stars and with a local chorus and some local artists.
3. The employment by the municipality of Litzky, the well-known choral director, to develop several municipal choruses.
4. The development of musical instruction as a regular dignified part of the curriculum of all public schools in the city.

Credit was given by Mr. Hayden to San Francisco Community Service for the organization of Music Week.

**A Columbus Day Celebration.**—On October 12 on the Branford Public Green the Italian people of Branford Township held a Columbus Day celebration in which the Community Council cooperated. The celebration opened with a parade to the Bowl where the celebration was held. This was followed by the singing of *America the Beautiful*, the reading of *Columbus*, groups of Italian

folk songs and Italian folk dances, speeches and the singing of the *Star Spangled Banner*.

**October—Chicago's Musical Month.**—The Bureau of Recreation of the Chicago Board of Education in planning its fall program decided that October should be a musical month. The popularity which the harmonica had attained on the school playgrounds played an important part in this decision. An event of the month was the harmonica contest conducted by the Bureau of Recreation for elementary school boys. The boys were organized in groups of four, known as harmonica quartettes, and each group was required to play one of the following selections: *Home, Sweet Home* or *Yankee Doodle*. Each group also played an optional number, the songs suggested being *America, Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes, Lead Kindly Light, Old Black Joe* and *Old Folks at Home*. There was also a contest for young men 16 to 22 years of age who were required to play a set number and an optional number. The songs suggested for this group were the following:

1. *I've Been Working on the Railroad.*
2. *Stars of the Summer Night.*
3. *Sweet Adeline.*
4. *Good Bye, My Lover, Good Bye.*
5. *My Name Is Solomon Levi.*
6. *Kentucky Babe.*
7. *Forsaken.*
8. *Two Roses.*
9. *We Meet Again Tonight, Boys.*
10. *Down in Mobile.*
11. *Mandalay.*
12. *My Old Kentucky Home.*

For the girls ukelele contests were planned. A concert in which all groups participated brought the month to a climax.

**A New Harmonic Society.**—A new and interesting development in Houston, Texas, is the Houston Harmonic Society organized under the auspices of the Music Division of Houston Recreation and Community Service. The new organization will represent a body of trained singers banded together for the purpose of producing master works of the great composers. Membership is limited to vocalists of definite attainments. "To be able to read music with a fair degree of proficiency, to be possessed of a pleasing voice, to be able to grasp intelligently the principles of ensemble as they are explained, to have an enthusiasm for the best in art, to be prompt and willing—these are essentials."

# A Merry Christmas Party

By

ERA BETZNER

"Merry Christmas" was the old English greeting shouted from window to street on Christmas morning. We have inherited many delightful Christmas customs from Europe. Our Santa Claus comes from Holland, the Christmas stocking from Belgium or France. These and many others with the reunion of friends, the giving and receiving of presents, and the exchange of compliments are all part of the happy festivities which make Christmas the most important celebration of the year. We will use some of the elements of all of these traditions to make our "Merry Christmas Party" worthy of its name.

## *Invitations*

The invitations may be written with red ink on green paper, a small envelope made to match. They should invite the guest either in poetry or prose, to come to the party prepared with a gift, as was the ancient custom, but to keep the gift from being too great a responsibility it may consist of anything appropriate from an egg-beater to an automobile or house and lot, provided it does not cost over ten cents.

## *Decorations*

The decorations should be planned as a stage setting would be, to give the feeling and atmosphere of the occasion. The festive colorful atmosphere of Christmas is easy to achieve with bells, wreaths, green and red festooning, evergreen branches, holly, the intriguing mistletoe, and the all important Christmas tree. In the beginning when the guests are arriving the lights may be turned on the tree. They should be turned off when the games begin until the decorations have been put on the tree. Note:—All the decorations for the tree should be placed on tables which have been numbered. There should be such things as popcorn, with needle and thread at hand, for making popcorn strings, bright red cranberries, or pieces of red crepe paper, to be put together with a string. Trays bearing steel filings, tinsel and ornaments may be added.

As many Christmas cards as there are guests should be provided. On each card is written the

name of some toy which can be suggested in pantomime. A tray bearing candy and small cakes wrapped in tissue paper or tinfoil should be prepared and placed on a table with tarletan Christmas stockings.

When the guests enter they are given a card with a Christmas seal of some variety attached to it, such as a Santa Claus, a wreath, a bell. There should be two of each variety of seal. If the party is a large one, this may be done with a group having the same seal and finding the group, instead of finding partners. The gifts which have been brought by the guests have meanwhile been left at the door.

When partners have been found, they are asked to look on the opposite side of the card they are holding to find directions for what to do next. The card may direct partners to go to Table One and thread the popcorn. Four or five couples will find themselves working on cranberries or paper chains. From ten to twenty minutes will be needed for this game. If an incentive to accomplishment is needed the groups may compete to see which gets the decorations ready first. Everyone will want to decorate the tree, but that privilege is reserved as a reward of merit. The winners in the games which follow will decorate the tree. The losers may make suggestions—but not criticize the work of the decorators.

## *Christmas Delivery*

This is a relay race. Divide the players into two groups, and let each man take his partner within the group. Have ready two sets of five bundles, of different shapes and sizes—the more incongruous the size and shape the better, but it must be possible to carry them all at one time. The sets of bundles are placed on tables. Players line up beside tables. A person may be used for the goal. Contestants start at a given signal. The lady picks up the bundles and gives them to the gentleman who files them on his left arm. When he has taken them all on his arm, he takes the lady by the hand and together they walk around the goal and back to the table, where the lady unloads the bundles, one by one! They then touch the next couple in line, and immediately go to the

end of the line. The second couple now follows the same procedure. The side whose leaders first return to the head of their line, wins.

Note:—If any of the bundles are dropped the lady may assist her partner in picking them up.

### *Snowballs*

Players are divided into groups of about three couples each. They form circles—one player from each circle is given a white balloon and asked to step into the center of his circle. These players while standing in the center of the circle blow up their balloons. This may be done as a contest to see which circle has the most long-winded representative. The center player tosses the balloon into the air. The object of the game is to see which circle can keep its balloon up in the air the longest, without taking more than one step away from the circle.

### *Christmas Ties*

Two lines divided face each other. A tie is given to the leader of each, one red, the other green. At a given signal each leader puts on his tie and ties it, turns and shakes hands with his neighbor on the right, then as quickly as may be he unties it and passes it to the person next to him. The line finishing first wins. The leader may wear the tie.

### *Choosing Christmas Presents*

Players are seated in a circle about the tree. Each player in turn is allowed to choose two or three presents. The choice, however, is limited to articles which begin with the player's own initials. Thus Henry Smith might have for his Christmas cheer such things as hairpins and skates, while Mary Ann Jones would find herself choosing a motorboat, aeroplane and a jumping jack.

### *Decorating the Tree*

The leaders of the winning side in the relay races and the players who succeeded in keeping their "snowball" up in the air the longest are now assigned the duty of trimming the tree with the decorations which have been assembled. Before placing the decorations on the tree, the "critics," who are seated about the tree, may make suggestions as to how they think the decorating should be done. The suggestions need not be followed by the decorators. When the tree has been decorated, the candles are again lighted. The

carols should be sung during the relighting of the tree. This is effective in creating in the group a mood which leads naturally into the presentation of the Christmas pantomime.

### *Christmas Pantomime or Play*

The pantomime may be the dramatization of any one of the delightful old English ballads, such as Good King Wenceslas.

### *Directions for the Pantomime*

At one end of the stage, King Wenceslas and his page stand against a background of warmth and color—banked evergreen boughs with a spot of red light seeming to come from a fire. At the other end a suggestion of cold and dreariness is given by bare branches covered with snow and frost and lighted dimly with blue or green. A poor man is gathering the scattered twigs on the ground, and totters beneath his light load as from starvation. Near the King to one side a group of courtiers are feasting and making merry. On the first stanza of the carol the King turns from them and looks toward the poor man in the snow. The King beckons the page to him and gestures toward the man outside. The page pantomimes in keeping with the concluding lines of the stanza telling who the man is and where he dwells. On the second stanza the King motions toward the feast and the page goes over and brings back food and logs as directed. The King takes the dishes, the page carries the logs and they step over toward the poor man gathering twigs. On the third stanza the page draws back and pantomimes to the monarch the dangers they are facing from the darkness, the wind and the cold. On the fourth stanza the King points to his footsteps and motions the page to follow in them. The page does as directed and shows that the prints are warm to his feet, whereupon he proceeds without further fear or hesitation. On the fifth stanza the King and the page give the food and logs to the man, and stand protectingly beside him to the end of the song. This is repeated as often as needed during the procession and at the place of assembly.

### *The Christmas Play*

The Christmas play may be the famous *St. George Play*. The grand and special performance of the mummers, as styled in Scotland, from time immemorial has been a presentation of the time honored Legend of St. George and the Dragon.



The actors are chiefly young men who, having arrayed themselves in the costumes proper to the characters, make a round of visits of the houses, knocking at the doors and claiming the privilege of admission for St. George and his merry men.

*St. George Play*

The play as it is given here is a combination of two old traditional *St. George Plays*, the *Mummer's Play* and the *Oxfordshire St. George Play* used in England for three hundred years. It is a rollicking farce and must be played as such.

The setting of the play, when given indoors in a large hall, consists of a wide space for acting and a cave made of curtains. In this cave is the Dragon. If given out of doors the cave is made of boughs. The costumes for the play are described at the end of the play.

*Characters*

Jack the Giant Killer  
The Dragon  
St. George  
The Doctor  
The Turk  
Old Father Christmas  
Morris Dancers  
The Fifer  
The Drummer

OLD FATHER CHRISTMAS:

Here comes I, Old Father Christmas. Christmas or not,  
I hope Old Father Christmas will never be forgot.  
A room, make room here, gallant boys, and give us leave to rhyme,  
We come to show activity upon a Christmas time.  
Acting youth and acting age,  
The like was never acted on this stage.

(Father Christmas retires. Jack the Giant Killer enters. He is played by a small boy)

JACK THE GIANT KILLER:

A Dragon sleeps within that lair,  
And I will rouse him, for I swear  
That he  
Must conquered be.  
He's killed the baker, and killed the miller,  
But I am Jack the Giant Killer,  
And I'll revenge them never fear.  
Dragon, what ho! Dragon, appear!

(The Dragon comes out of the cave. He is all in green with a huge Dragon head, Dragon claws and has a long Dragon tail)

DRAGON:

I am the Dragon. Hear me roar.

JACK:

I am Jack, who killed Blunderbore,  
The great huge Giant.  
Now, Dragon, beware!

DRAGON:

A piff for your Giant. Sir Jack, take care!  
(They fight. Jack is overcome and lies prone)

JACK:

Here I lie, and dead will be,  
Unless some help comes speedily.

(St. George enters)

ST. GEORGE:

I am St. George of merry Eng-land,  
Bring in the Morris men, bring in our band.

(The Morris men come forward and dance a stick dance to a tune from fife and drum. As soon as the dance ends St. George continues speaking)

ST. GEORGE:

These are our tricks, ho men, ho!  
These are our sticks,—whack, men, so!

(St. George strikes the Dragon who roars and comes forward)

DRAGON:

Stand on head, stand on feet!  
Meat, meat, meat for to eat! (Tries to bite St. George)

JACK:

Here I lie, and dead will be,  
Unless some help come speedily.

ST. GEORGE:

I am St. George of Merry Eng-land,  
I'll save little Jack, and I'll here take my stand.

DRAGON:

Stand on head, stand on feet!  
Meat, meat, meat for to eat! (Tries to bite St. George)

I am the Dragon, here are my jaws;  
I am the Dragon, here are my claws.  
Meat, meat, meat for to eat,  
Stand on my head, stand on my feet.

ST. GEORGE:

What man or mortal will dare to stand  
Before me with my sword in hand?  
I'll slay him, and cut him as small as flies  
And send him to Jamaica to make mince pies.  
(St. George and the Dragon fight and the Dragon is worsted. Little Jack still lies prone)

JACK:

Here I lie, and dead will be  
Unless some help comes speedily.



ST. GEORGE:

Oh, come, little Doctor, and give us a pill.

(Little Doctor enters. He should be played by a rather short man. He has a long white beard and carries two large bottles, one red, one blue. He also has a green umbrella. The umbrella was a property added in the late eighteenth century)

DOCTOR:

The red ones will cure you, the blue ones will kill.

(The Dragon is lying on the ground twisting in comic convulsions. The Doctor goes to him, opens his jaws, and forces down a large blue pill. While the Doctor is stooping over Jack, the Dragon in one of his convulsions, gets hold of the red pill bottle. He swallows a red pill. This revives him so that he winks one eye and swallows another. Little Jack is revived and gets up. As he does so the tall and terrible Turk enters. The appearance of the Turk so frightens the Doctor that he runs away, leaving his green umbrella behind him. The Dragon appropriates the umbrella, coils himself up under it and continues to eat red pills. St. George is so occupied with the Turk that he does not observe the Dragon)

THE TURK:

Here come I, the Turkish knight,  
In Turkish land I learned to fight,  
I'll fight St. George, with courage bold,  
And if his blood's hot, will make it cold.

ST. GEORGE:

If thou art a Turkish knight,  
Draw out thy sword and let us fight!  
I fought the man of Tilotree, and still will gain  
the victory.  
First then, I fought in France! Secondly I fought  
in Spain!  
Thirdly I came to Palestine, and fought the Turk  
again.

(St. George and the Turk with their broad-swords fight three rounds with great clashing and ferocity. The Doctor has taken refuge in the cave, from which he peers out to see the fight. Whenever it seems to go against St. George, the Doctor withdraws his head. Whenever the Turk seems worsted, the Dragon shows signs of agitation, and hides behind the green umbrella. St. George finally conquers the Turk and lays him out flat. Then stands with his foot on the Turk's chest, and crosses his arms in noble attitude. Father Christmas comes in.)

FATHER CHRISTMAS:

Heaven bless your hearth and fold,

Shut out the wolf, and keep out the cold!  
We wish you merry Christmas!

(The participants in the Play now march round the field or hall, or around the Square. St. George and Father Christmas walk arm in arm. After them struts little Jack. Next the Dragon and the Turk walk arm in arm. The Turk looks down-cast. The Dragon carries the green umbrella over his head and has his long tail looped gracefully over one arm. Last of all walks the Doctor. His pill bottles should really be filled with red and blue candies which he offers to the onlookers as he marches by.)

#### THE PLAY ENDS

*St. George* wears a suit of gray to simulate armor, and over this a white tunic with a red cross, such as the crusaders wore. He has a large shield and sword. These may be made of cardboard covered with silver paper. *Father Christmas* wears a red robe and has a white beard. *The Dragon* wears a green suit, has huge green gloves for claws, a green cardboard mask for a head. He should have a very long green tail, shaped like the tail of a crocodile only reaching much farther behind him on the floor. *The Turk* should wear a Turkish costume, bloomers, white shirt, Zouave jacket and fez. He carries a huge sword. The little *Doctor* should be all in black, with a black cloak and tall peaked black cap. *The Morris Dancers* wear loose white shirts with black knee breeches and bunches of ribbon on shoulders and at knees. Bells are fastened to some of these ribbons and jingle as they move. *The Fifer* can wear a green costume; *the Drummer* is attired in scarlet and yellow.

#### Refreshments

The Christmas stockings which were filled with refreshments earlier in the evening are now presented to the group. As each person gets his stocking, he finds a Christmas tag attached. On the tag is printed the name of some mechanical toy, which the guests are asked to act out in such a way that the others may guess what it is they have received. Such things as a talking doll, a tricycle, a kiddie-car are all interesting possibilities, and will lend themselves to interpretation. If the group is large, six or eight may receive the same thing, and all do their stunt together.

#### Real Gifts

After the stunt has been performed and refreshments served with coffee or hot chocolate, the guests receive their real presents; that is, those

gifts which have been brought by the guests themselves. The hostess may present them with verbal compliments, or Santa Claus, if he should happen

to come by, may pass them out with written compliments which have been prepared for the occasion.

## What to Do Without Facilities\*

By

CHARLES H. ENGLISH

*Supervisor, Bureau of Recreation, Board of Education, Chicago, Illinois*

Happily for the play movement of America, we are passing from the period of development in which apparatus and a large amount of equipment were deemed of greatest importance. The fact that there are no facilities need not prevent one from conducting a most successful indoor or outdoor recreation center. I can sincerely say that I believe the curse of many playground systems in America is that they are over-equipped. This is particularly true with relation to small neighborhood centers. In many of these centers where space for games and sports is precious there seems to be a mania for occupying the greater portion of the area with apparatus.

Originally equipment represented an attempt of the play leader to establish a sort of outdoor gymnasium. In the early days the program was very largely made up of gymnastics and athletics. When the leader was not actively promoting strenuous stunts and conducting classes, the children were left to play on apparatus without leadership. A little later it was found that the leader was likely to allow the apparatus to do his work and he became merely a caretaker. This was especially true when competitive sports grew in popularity and he felt called upon to organize and coach only his teams.

One of the big problems facing recreation executives today is that of impressing their boards with the value of leadership as against apparatus. It is a difficult task to prove to the public that playground work whose ultimate goal is citizenship training can be effective without full equipment. They can visualize physical equipment but cannot so easily see leadership. Some of us, however, have tried the experiment of activities without facilities and have found it most satis-

factory. All one needs is space, and not always a great deal of space, and real leadership.

Some of the advantages of this type of play center follow:

The leader can devote full time and energy to the children and not spend half of his time supervising the use of apparatus. Further, the undivided attention of the patrons to the program is assured.

The opportunity, indeed the necessity, for a leader to use his initiative and imagination in developing every phase of the program, including methods of securing material for handcraft, hand equipment for games and the like, is of great advantage not only to the leader but to the children themselves. They must work out their salvation together and this always develops real friendship and comradeship.

Every effort put forth in developing a play area without facilities brings out a spirit of ownership. Fewer depredations are committed; viciousness and vandalism are seldom seen. Certainly the repair bill is minimized and this in itself is a distinct advantage with a limited budget.

A greater latitude of program is possible.

With a limited budget a limited number of play areas can be established. In fact, when a recreation executive is convinced that a playground can be operated successfully without the usual facilities, will he not attempt to broaden his service by adding to the number of play centers, possibly setting up a program in congested areas where a regulation playground would be impossible?

The greatest hurdle to take in such a venture is the securing of the right leader. Those trained merely in physical education cannot ordinarily be successful. Courses in our training schools do not equip the students to meet this supreme test

\*Given at section meeting, Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, New Jersey, October 21

of leadership which requires a technique of games, sports, handcraft, dramatics, music, a knowledge of social problems in the neighborhood, unusual judgment and tact and an abundance of energy and play spirit. An individual possessing these qualifications is not easily found. What executives have to do is to transfer their best leaders from other important places. This takes courage and conviction.

In attempting such a venture the following steps are followed:

1. Secure a leader.
2. Select the area.
3. Make a community or neighborhood study of physical conditions, racial complexes, habits of children and friendliness of neighbors adjacent to grounds and local newspapers.

All that is available in the line of equipment is a box, with handle, full of balls, bats, nets and similar material. This may be left with a neighbor at the close of a day's work. If there are no lights for the evening, games and stunts may be conducted in front of a lighted billboard.

#### THE PROGRAM

The playground program has now developed into two major fields of effort:

1. Sports and athletics
2. Manual work and art

In handwork and in the field of artistic development we are making great strides. It is this phase of play and recreation that is admirably fitted for such an adventure. It does not require the space that sports do and the appeal is strong to those who do not participate in athletics.

Of the forty-seven projects promoted by the Chicago Board of Education playgrounds from January 1st to November 1st forty-one did not require apparatus. In most cases material required was gladly furnished by the children. It was a material to be found at home or easily secured. A partial list is given here to illustrate the type of activity promoted:

1. Snow Modeling
2. Whittling
3. Radio Making
4. Doll Show
5. Pet Shows
6. Pushmobile Races
7. Sand Craft Exhibit
8. Stilt Contest
9. Playground Rodeo
10. Marble Contest
11. Top Tournament
12. Diabolo Tournament

13. Lantern Parade
14. Folk Dance Contest
15. Mardi Gras Parade
16. Model Aeroplane Meet
17. Harmonica Contest
18. Barber Shop Quartette Contest
19. Ukulele Contest
20. O'Leary Contest
21. Jackstones Tournament
22. Baseball Pitching Contest

Many of the usual sports such as baseball, volley ball, wrestling, soccer-football and skating tournaments do not need apparatus or full equipment. What little is used could be made by the children and is not ordinarily considered under the term "facilities." In small areas too limited for regulation games, rules may be adapted by the instructor to the space they have.

Let me say in conclusion: I believe that in both large cities and small communities the playground and recreation centers of the future will be provided with more adequate leadership and with less equipment. As we develop stronger leadership, we shall use fewer facilities to accomplish the desired results.

**Developments in New York State.**—From Daniel Chase, Chief of Physical Education Bureau, State Department of Education, Albany, New York, comes the following word: A recent decision has been made by the Legal Department of the State Department of Education which makes it possible for Boards of Education to engage special teachers of physical education for the summer months and to receive a portion of their salary from the State, provided these teachers are duly licensed by this Department and their program is under the control of the Board of Education and approved by the Bureau of Physical Education of the State Department. This decision will result in a fuller appreciation of the educational opportunities inherent to the playground work.

**Per Capita Cost in St. Louis.**—The annual report of the Division of Parks and Recreation of the Department of Public Welfare, St. Louis, Missouri, gives the following per capita cost of municipal athletics from April, 1923, to April, 1924:

Baseball, per capita.....	\$.003
Soccer, per capita.....	.002
Golf, per game.....	.122
Tennis, per game.....	.065



# The Eleventh Recreation Congress

BY WEAVER PANGBURN

The Eleventh Recreation Congress was essentially a school. Religious drama was demonstrated, not described. Amateurs presented one-act plays, not to entertain the delegates, but to reveal the possibilities of community dramatics. Publicity matter was dissected. There were round table discussions of drama and music. There were classes in games and athletics. Life saving was demonstrated. Consultants on community buildings, handicrafts, motion pictures and recreation personnel were available for conference.

Community recreation has become high type education. The Playground and Recreation Association of America is a national university.

While its educational character seems to be the essence of the Eleventh Congress, there were other elements which helped to make it one of the most notable meetings of its kind. There was a degree of harmony that amounted to a strong family feeling among all the workers, national and local. This was kindled not so much by the warming influence of the arts, music, drama, and games so conspicuous in the program, or by the Peter Pan caps, worn by delegates, or by the good weather, or by the comforts of the hotel, or by the mechanical smoothness of the Congress program, as by the mutual week to week and month to month interchange of service throughout the year between the cities and the national organization.

It was a working Congress. This was the testimony of observers and delegates alike. People attended meetings not conscientiously, but hungrily, eager to get suggestions and, no doubt, to give them. This business-like quality in no way chilled the spontaneity or joyousness of the play periods or day to day relationships. It probably enhanced them.

Drama held the place in the program at Atlantic City conceded to music at Springfield. A New York business man, confessedly blasé from seeing Broadway shows for many years, was touched to tears by the last of the plays by the Easton amateurs. Some said that there was too much drama on the program. But who would have omitted these plays, or *The Beatitudes*, so colorfully and reverently portrayed, or Professor Koch's story of the Carolina players making American drama history, or the round table discussions of drama?

A pronounced interest was shown by recreation workers in securing further training for themselves or members of their staff. This demand is, in itself, a prophecy of good omen for the future quality of recreation leadership.

The exhibits were noticeably superior to displays at previous Congresses.

Dr. John H. Finley, in opening the Congress, declared that the aim of the recreation movement was to make good sportsmen of Americans, to help them to learn to play the game. "Take the bitter with the sweet as sweet and bitter come, and play the game. That is the essence of good sportsmanship." Joseph Lee's profound address on *Art and Religion* was the first of three concerning the general subject of art and recreation. Two of Mr. Lee's significant statements were: "Besides the good and the true, man needs the beautiful," and "No life, no action, is successful unless it reaches the point where it sings." Dr. F. P. Keppel, president of the Carnegie Corporation, spoke on the subject, *Community Art in American Life*. He said: "If a community is to open its soul, it must be through an expression of all the arts."

Dr. Frank Alvah Parsons, President of the New York School of Fine and Applied Art, whose subject was *Art in Rest and Play*, told of the dangers of scientization, standardization and acceleration, which he termed the "new American trinity." He said that one of the first laws of art was fitness.

According to Albert W. Whitney of the National Safety Council, recreation provides the adventure of life which the safety movement enables us to undertake. "The prime purpose of life is not safety; it is adventure, fresh, firsthand experience of life."

"Labor wants leisure to live," said Matthew Woll, Vice-President of the American Federation of Labor. "The labor movement and the recreation movement have a common object in the pursuit of happiness."

Robert A. Woods gave a picture of the world need for recreation. He said that there was no word in the Chinese language for team play. "The great need of that nation is the development of the team play spirit and its reflection in every phase of national life. Today, Chinese educators



are looking toward recreation to fill this need."

Dr. George Fisher, of the Boy Scouts of America, graphically described the International Boy Scout Jamboree at Copenhagen.

It was at one of the general sessions on community art that Hamilton MacFadden told of the remarkable development of the Community Arts Association in Santa Barbara, of which he is the executive secretary.

William E. Harmon, President of the Harmon Foundation, with fresh emphasis, appealed for the setting aside of sufficient land for playgrounds in new real estate developments. Willem van de Wall, of the State Department of Health, Pennsylvania, set forth the psycho-therapeutic value of music.

Dr. C. B. Smith, of the United States Department of Agriculture, brought an inspiring message of the increased emphasis laid on recreation in camps for boys and girls encouraged by the government. A discussion on the subject, *What Constitutes an Adequate Recreation Program for Various Ages*, brought forth a stream of scientific and practical suggestions, culminating in Dr. Fretwell's treatment of the problems of middle age—not the less full of meaning because it roused the audience to hilarity. Dr. J. H. McCurdy discussed securing legislation for physical education. Gustavus T. Kirby, of New York, treasurer of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, had the chair at a session on *What Communities Can Do for Themselves through Their Recreation Departments*. The speakers were Alexis N. Muench, chairman of the Planning Parks and Recreation Commission, Syracuse; Colonel E. G. Smith, general manager of the *Times-Leader*, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Miss Ruth Taylor, Secretary of the Recreation Commission, Westchester County, N. Y.; Rev. R. P. Kreidler, D.D., chairman Municipal Bureau of Recreation, Scranton, Pa., and George M. Jones, president of the Department of Recreation, Reading, Pa.

#### AMONG THE DELEGATES

J. C. Walsh, Robert Garrett, Mrs. Francis de Lacy Hyde, all of them for many years firm friends of the recreation movement, were also

present. The Congress would have been incomplete without Professor Peter W. Dykema, who conducted the musical demonstrations, led community singing and had charge of the round table discussions on community music.

A long list of speakers, chairmen, and others who enriched the gathering by their presence includes Mrs. Milton P. Higgins, national president of the Parent Teacher Association; John Martin, of *John Martin's Book*; Emmett T. Scott, secretary-treasurer of Howard University; Reverend C. M. McConnell, Commission on Life Service, Methodist Episcopal Church, Chicago; Dr. Elizabeth Kemper Adams, of the Girl Scouts; Lester F. Scott, executive secretary of the Camp Fire Girls; Oscar A. Kirkham, director of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, Salt Lake City; Mrs. A. H. Reeve, national president of the Parent Teacher Association; H. F. Enlows, national director, First Aid and Life Saving, American Red Cross; Norvelle W. Sharpe II., city editor, *Atlantic City Gazette-Review*; L. L. McDonald, Department of Camping, Boy Scouts of America; Professor Elbert K. Fretwell, Teachers College, New York City; Dr. Ruby Greene Smith, Home Demonstration Leader, Cornell University; Lee F. Hanmer, of the Russell Sage Foundation; L. E. Jallade, architect; Thomas Adams, General Director of Plans and Surveys, New York City, and scores of others.

#### GREAT NEEDS DESCRIBED

Recreation superintendents and executives, veterans at the Congress, and many new workers had a prominent place in the gathering, and by their attendance and contributions in discussion, largely made the Eleventh Congress what it was.

Recreational needs in rural districts, in small towns, among the colored people and in industrial communities set forth at Atlantic City indicate how great an opportunity for effort and service in broad fields remain for recreation workers. The Eleventh Congress quickened the faith of all in recreation, gave help on knotty questions of technique and policy, bred unity among the family of recreationists, strengthened the belief in municipal maintenance of public play, and made new friends for public recreation.

I regard adequate, wholesome community recreation for my employees and for all members of the community as essential to successful work and to living a larger life.

—Arthur Nash, Cincinnati, O., June 5, 1924.

# Report of the Meeting of Recreation Executives

ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY

October 16, 1924

The opening day of the Eleventh Recreation Congress held at Atlantic City (October 16) was devoted to a conference of recreation executives in which only those who were serving as chief executives in cities might participate, though others were permitted to attend the meeting as listeners. The subjects discussed were selected by the recreation executives themselves, the Playground and Recreation Association of America at their request arranging the program and selecting the chairmen. The day was divided into four sessions.

## SESSION I

C. SEYMOUR BULLOCK, *Chairman*

*Commissioner, Municipal Recreation Committee*  
South Bend, Indiana

The first subject discussed at this session was *What Winter Activities Can Be Developed in Both Cold and Warm Climates*. In opening the discussion, C. H. English, Supervisor of Bureau of Recreation, Board of Education, Chicago, Illinois, made a plea for the operation of playgrounds on the year round basis, with a full winter program. This he felt to be important because of what it means to the health as well as the happiness of children. Many activities, he pointed out, are possible in a program of this kind.

W. J. Cartier, Executive Secretary of Community Service, Augusta, Georgia, stated that the playgrounds of Columbus are maintained on a nine-months' basis, with hiking, football and other activities in the fall program conducted until Christmas time.

Basketball, soccer and field hockey for girls were suggested by C. E. Brewer, Recreation Commissioner of Detroit, as possible activities for playgrounds kept open after the summer program.

Chicago, according to V. K. Brown, Superintendent of Playgrounds and Sports Division, South Park Commissioners of Chicago, is developing some interesting winter activities, among them ice boat races on the park lagoons. Through the

Bureau of Recreation of the schools snow modeling has been developed to a high degree and very realistic effects have been secured by the application of slushy snow to framework, outlining various animals such as a group of elephants attacked by wolves. As a new fall activity the South Park Commission is capitalizing the interest in cross-word puzzles and has mimeographed a set for each of the centers and is running a competition in the evening centers.

The playgrounds of Lexington, Kentucky, G. Wood Dunlap, Commissioner of Properties, stated, are open the year round and football, soccer, baseball, kite, marble and top spinning contests and similar activities make up the program.

The second question discussed at the meeting was *Have Merchandise Prizes a Proper Place in the Playground and Athletic Program?*

Prizes, and particularly merchandise prizes, said Dr. William Burdick, Director of Playground Athletic League, Baltimore, Maryland, ought not to be a part of the program. The word "prize" has a bad significance, meaning as it does the securing of something by taking it away from somebody else. There must, however, be some system of award—not reward—"something to look at." On this basis it should be possible to arrange for a simple, progressive system of awards, ranging from the simplest type of record on fence or bulletin board to newspaper publicity and records in books. In Baltimore boys compete for paper certificates.

The system of awards should be adapted to the age and mental ability of the child. For small children things must be tangible and the day of awards should not be postponed until the child has forgotten.

First there may be given a simple paper certificate, then something progressive in its nature. In Baltimore where the program covers eight years the awards consist of medals with the addition each year of a date bar. For the first three years the tests outlined by the Playground and Recreation Association of America are used.

These are followed by more difficult events. The medals cost from 7c to 50c apiece. This type of award should be surrounded by all the rules of amateurism.

In discussing Dr. Burdick's paper, William Champlin, Executive Secretary of Board of Recreation, Philadelphia, stated that he did not believe in giving prizes. In Philadelphia, the plan is followed of having an athletic league in each center with a constitution stating that no prizes can be given unless approved by the executive committee. The awards take the form of diplomas for groups.

Jay B. Nash, Superintendent of Recreation Department, Oakland, California, urged that the conference develop a code of ethics in regard to the giving of prizes so that recreation workers might go back to their communities and say, "This is the position which the recreation executives of the country have taken on the subject of prizes." Such action, he felt, would help in eliminating the danger of having newspapers run the athletic program.

Speaking on this subject Dr. Burdick suggested that a solution of the problem lay in educating newspapers, and that recreation executives are often at fault in not making clear to newspapers conducting athletic events the principles at stake. In Baltimore the cooperation of the newspapers was secured in giving medals as awards. V. K. Brown suggested that where the newspaper has taken up a contest, it is difficult to convince it that you are right. It is necessary to "get there" before the newspaper does. In Chicago a newspaper offered a \$75 prize for the boy winning the model airplane tournament. When the newspaper understood the principle involved, as it was explained by Mr. Brown, they consented to give instead of the money prize a scholarship at a technical school. Mr. Brown stated it as his belief that there are times when the award of a button is the same as a stick pin. It was his feeling that in such instances as Hallowe'en celebrations and other neighborhood events informal in their character, merchants should be permitted to give prizes and that in the matter of prizes recreation workers should discriminate between such neighborhood events and the organized recreation and athletic program.

Mr. English raised the question as to whether letters might be used as awards. In the recreation program of the Board of Education they are trying the plan of awarding the boy at the end of the year the letter of his playground. To secure

it he must have competed in a number of sports and special events such as kite tournaments.

It is not necessary, Dr. Burdick felt, to have a trophy. As a substitute a picture of the team may be presented to the group; it is a question of educating industrial and other groups. An important consideration in the giving of awards is the cost element. Expenses should be kept down to a minimum. In Maryland, in spite of the fact that the awards are inexpensive, \$7,000 was spent last year for this feature of the program. Mr. Nash of Oakland also urged that the certificates, badges and buttons given as an award should be as inexpensive as possible.

It was suggested that the question of a resolution against the giving of merchandise prizes be referred to a committee on resolutions and brought before the meeting at the end of the day's session.

The third question brought up for discussion was that of the *Charging of Fees for Recreational Activities*.

Charles G. Tingle, Executive Secretary of Community Service, Bay City, Michigan, in opening the discussion pointed out that the question presents itself in a different way to cities where recreation is provided through private funds than it does to cities where the work is municipally supported. Very often cities operating playgrounds on private funds find it necessary to depend to some degree on money received from fees for the extension of the work. In Bay City, for example, the proceeds of the dance program—\$3,000 a year—maintain the program. The dances were not started with the intention of making money but to keep girls away from the undesirable dance halls and to provide a place for young people to go where they might enjoy dancing under wholesome auspices. A charge of 25c is made for dancing with a 5c charge for checking privileges.

The discussion of this subject showed that the charging of fees for dancing is a fairly general custom with recreation departments and associations.

In discussing the charging of fees for other activities, K. B. Raymond, Supervisor of Recreation, Minneapolis, stated that he was in favor of charging fees for practically all highly organized activities on the basis that a city can never provide all the facilities needed and the municipal appropriation must be supplemented if the needs of all the people are to be met. In Minneapolis senior baseball leagues pay \$45 a year, junior \$5. The money received is turned back to the city for the maintenance of the baseball organization.



Playground activities, in Mr. Raymond's opinion, should be free but a charge may be legitimately made for dancing, baseball, football, organized tennis, municipal golf—all types of activities where it is necessary to provide additional supervision.

Mr. Brewer stated that he is opposed to the principle of charging fees except for special privileges, because of the fact that there is danger of making community recreation a commercial proposition. Further, as a usual thing, the receipts go to general revenue and the recreation department is not directly benefited. It is just as important, Mr. Brewer felt, for the city to supply baseball, football and similar activities as it is that it shall maintain the playgrounds. Where an individual receives instruction in tennis or golf he should pay for it. There is danger, however, of a bad reaction from the proposal that activities should be self-supporting. Cities will reach the point where they will not feel it necessary to support recreation and recreation workers must advocate the general principle that cities should pay for recreation as it does for schools.

Mrs. Margaret Gray, Superintendent of Bureau of Recreation, Pittsburgh, stated it as her opinion that from the Americanization point of view it is important to teach foreigners that they must take their share of the financial responsibility. The municipality, she felt, should supply facilities for all kinds of recreation. The citizens should pay for a small amount toward upkeep.

Mr. Nash made the suggestion that in the matter of charges it might be practicable to designate a classification in regard to ages. Merely to meet the suggested requirement of a playground within walking distance of every child would, he said, test the budget of any city for years to come. It should be feasible, therefore, to establish a cost paying basis for the administration of recreation by charging fees for certain activities, thereby making it possible to maintain drama leagues, musical clubs and other much needed cultural activities on a cost covering basis. Last year \$100,000 was received in Oakland from fees for golf, camps and water sports. It is not right, Mr. Nash pointed out, to expect the man who cannot afford to pay for golf to help pay for the rich man's golf and fees for activities of this kind are therefore justifiable.

The Bureau of Recreation of Philadelphia, Mr. Champlin stated, pays for everything and there are no fees and charges. Groups may hold dances at the centers, paying for additional music not by

charging fees but by raising the funds through other means. The City Solicitor of Philadelphia has given it as his legal opinion that the city cannot charge fees.

Dr. Burdick made the suggestion that it might be possible to work out a plan whereby all forms of recreation, which mean the refreshment of spirit and body after toil, might be paid for in part, the city providing the place and leadership. All play and athletics for children should be provided free of charge.

James H. Dillon, Superintendent of Recreation, Park Department, Hartford Conn., stated that the city charges 10c for a round of golf, 10c for dancing. This year \$90,000 in fees from golf and \$10,000 from dancing will be turned back into leisure time activities for the city.

In closing, Eugene Gibney, Director of Social Centers, New York Public Schools, pointed out the danger of spreading a gospel which would seem to take the point of view that recreation can be made self-supporting. For twenty-five years recreation workers have been trying to convince municipalities that recreation should be publicly supported and we ought not now to do anything to react against this fundamental principle. In reinforcing this point of view, Mr. Bullock said that if recreation is a crime-preventing movement, the city should support it.

## SESSION II

RICHARD SCHMOYER, *Chairman*

*Director, Memorial Community House*

Whiting, Indiana

Mrs. Lucia L. Knowles, Superintendent of Recreation, Syracuse, New York, opened the discussion on the topic, *What Specific Things Can Be Done With and for Boys and Girls over Fifteen?*

Boys and girls of this kind, says Mrs. Knowles, compose the touchiest, most sensitive group of any with whom recreation workers have to deal. They are hard to get but once having won them, a play leader has a most loyal group of supporters.

The leader is the important element in a consideration of program and activities. If a leader can influence the group, any kind of activity can be introduced.

### *The Summer Program*

There are two types of activities to be considered—outdoor and indoor. In the summer time, in dealing with thousands of boys and girls



on the playground, it is necessary to give them the activities they want—baseball, football, soccer—all kinds of sport—all the games they play for fun. In the beginning it is often necessary to catch their enthusiasm by organizing leagues but there is danger of introducing this form of organization. It is important to develop many groups on the individual playground so that large numbers will participate in sports. Handwork is also popular. Girls over sixteen enjoy basketball throwing. In Syracuse twilight volley ball leagues of girls are popular. Both boys and girls like tennis, swimming and open-air dancing.

Because there were so many commercial recreation parks in the city, with bad dance halls, the Department felt forced to provide dancing under wholesome auspices to counteract that evil. A large open-air dance platform was provided where at a nominal fee young people could dance. Means were taken to safeguard the dance and the participants were sent home at an early hour.

In community centers we deal with hundreds and scores instead of thousands and here is where leadership can be made to count most. In the community center the leader comes in closer personal relation with groups than he does on the playground and here it is that the organization of young people into groups can be a helpful factor and a training in citizenship.

Everybody will join a "Good Times Club." Later the club may have the activities it wishes. When the members tire of one thing, the leader may introduce something else. It is well to have a social hour after the vigorous sports which boys enjoy so much. Boys also like singing and the playing of quiet games and of pool.

A good times club is popular with girls. In a certain district of Syracuse many girls who grew up in a club of this kind and who married and moved to other parts of the city still come back to the club. It now gives half its time to the making of gifts.

A skillful leader always presents a program from which the members may choose. He constantly starts new clubs, taking in new members.

The second topic of discussion in this session was, *Getting the Most Out of Baseball for American Youth*.

C. E. Chambers, Commissioner of Parks, Toronto, Canada, stated that in his city they tried to provide playing facilities for all the boys who wanted to play. To do this the city is divided into districts of one square mile each and clubs are organized in every district. There is a central

council responsible to the Park Department and through this council the Park Department keeps its hands on the game. To get the greatest possible values out of the game the cooperation of church organizations is secured and at each game these organizations are represented. This plan has helped produce a high standard of personal conduct.

Mr. Brewer made the point that baseball and the control of diamonds should come under the jurisdiction of the authorities in charge of recreation. Detroit has a baseball commission with legal authority to settle protests and arrange for series. Semi-professional baseball has been driven out. The problem of securing uniforms for newsboys was solved by permitting clothing shops to provide them. The city provides the umpires.

Inter-city contests, Mr. Brewer suggested, are desirable as awards but inter-city competition must be maintained by the recreation department. A discussion of inter-city competition showed that Mr. Brewer of Detroit, Mr. Jarvis of Indianapolis, Mr. Bullock of South Bend and a number of other superintendents of recreation, are enthusiastic about the possibility of districting the country for inter-city competition. Their suggestion that definite action be taken toward bringing about such competition was referred to the resolutions committee for later report.

The question was raised, *How Can We Create the Right Kind of Spirit in the Game and How Keep Baseball on a Purely Amateur Basis?* In discussing this, Grover C. Thames, Executive Secretary of Community Service, Shreveport, Louisiana, stated that he believed in getting the boys to recognize sportsmanship above rules. The scoring system used, he felt, would help greatly to solve the problem. His experience has shown that the one who causes most trouble is the "fellow on the outside" who knows nothing about the game. In Fort Worth, Texas, the Recreation Department has found it feasible to put the responsibility for management in the hands of the boys themselves.

Detroit does not allow its boys to be anything but amateurs. If they accept money, they are out of the amateur class. A number of superintendents stated that frequently amateurs become professionals on Sundays. It was suggested that these boys might be provided for in A. A. U. class, playing semi-professional ball. A number felt that boys receiving their expenses on Sundays should be permitted to play in some class; others

felt that nothing savouring of professionalism in the slightest degree should be tolerated.

### SESSION III

CHARLES H. ENGLISH, *Chairman*  
*Supervisor, Bureau of Recreation Board*  
*of Education*  
 Chicago, Illinois

In opening up the subject, *Has Experience Shown It Is Wise to Plan for Organized Sunday Recreation and What Activities Can Be Incorporated in Such a Program?* Mr. Raymond of Minneapolis read a paper on Sunday Recreation, prepared by Ernest Johnson, Superintendent, Department of Parks and Playgrounds, St. Paul, Minnesota. Mr. Johnson's paper follows:

"Six years' experience has taught me that there is a big field for organized Sunday recreation. Not that I am altogether in favor of it, but necessity provides the impetus. I do not believe that Sunday morning hours should be occupied in any way with organized recreation, but that the afternoon hours should be occupied for leisure time.

"I am not in favor of smaller playground areas being open nor of the conducting of any games where the twilight hours through the week will suffice. However, amateur baseball, football, skating, hockey, hiking, golf, swimming, concerts, horseshoes and tennis, are very essential to occupy the minds of young men and women who seek the companionship of others on Sunday and whose employment prevents their social intercourse during the week.

"The individuals reached in baseball, football, horseshoes and hockey make up a group of young men and women who seek the association of others outside of places of employment. This desire is satisfied very largely through organized games. We find that not only the participants are satisfied, but those watching them derive a great deal of passive enjoyment. I have observed in many instances that the pool rooms and alleys and such places are vacated on a Sunday afternoon when there is some form of organized recreation which provides interest and excitement and wholesome pleasure to while away the hours. Many thousands of young men, young women, boys and girls as well as business men and their wives attend these wholesome sports.

"We find that the tennis courts are occupied all day Sunday. Tennis is a quiet game with enough competition and exercise to satisfy the desires of the players.

"Sunday recreation provides for those who enjoy passive forms of recreation. Many thousands will congregate on a Sunday afternoon to listen to a good concert for two hours. The very best bands available are employed and it is through this medium that crowds are entertained Sunday afternoons.

"The game of golf is a sport that is sweeping the country. It became popular many years ago and we find that the increasing popularity of the game has caused a growth much faster than that of any other game that was ever invented. I point to that game as being one of the quietest games played by the American public and one that will not cause a disturbance in the community. There is nothing about it that can be found objectionable by those who are religiously inclined.

"I believe that Sunday recreation is meeting a need of hungry souls who long for sociability in competition. It provides a means for getting together on a day away from their labors. I believe that no legislation of any kind should be put on as a barrier to prevent these people from participating in activities of that kind. I believe that in saneness of organization, and by that I mean that good judgment should be used at all times, so that Sunday recreation may not become a distasteful factor in the community."

Mr. Raymond stated it as his belief that Sunday is one of the days offering the greatest opportunity for young people.

There was a general feeling on the part of recreation executives present that Sunday offers an opportunity for providing wholesome recreation, though the form of recreation is often of a different character from that of other days and there is a different emphasis. In South Bend the diamonds and playgrounds are open on Sunday only to those who are employed during the week. In Scranton the libraries and quiet game rooms are open on Sunday. In a city in Georgia tennis courts are open on Sunday. In Oakland, California, all regular workers have Sunday off. There are no organized games and the temporary worker in charge fulfills the duties of a caretaker rather than those of a play leader.

It was reported that the work of the Committee on Playground Ball, of which H. A. Johnson of Minneapolis was chairman, has been completed, that the rules are now on press and may be secured free of charge from Mr. Johnson. A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Johnson by the meeting for the work done.

*How Far Does the Responsibility of the Recre-*

*ation Executive Extend to the Industries of the Community and What Should Be the Content of a Program Which Will Best Serve Them?* In opening the discussion of this question, Mr. Nash stated that the recreation department has the same responsibility for the industries as it has for any other community group. One of the chief functions of the recreation department is that it shall be an organizing body. In every industry there are groups wanting a recreation program but needing someone to step on the "self-starter." In Oakland the self-starter is supplied by the workers of the recreation department who go from industry to industry organizing activities.

At the present time there are few noon-time activities being conducted, the program being largely carried on in the community outside of working hours. For the girls in industry there have been organized clubs for dancing, picnics, parties, rowing and similar activities. Volley ball and tournaments are also a part of the program. Sunday is the day for meetings. Once or twice a year big game tournaments are held with volley ball and baseball stunt races and a parade from the industries. The recreation department provides the self-starter and the overhead expenses which consist of the salary of the directors and the expenses connected with the small amount of clerical work necessary. The industries provide equipment, music and refreshments. Some of the factories have established play fields and facilities of various kinds. There are now between forty and forty-five factories in the industrial league.

Oakland follows the plan of having a commissioner for each sport, who holds frequent meetings stressing sportsmanship.

C. H. English, in the absence of Will R. Reeves, Executive Secretary of Cincinnati Community Service, opened the discussion on the question, *What Is the Responsibility of the Recreation Executive for the Recreational Life of the District Adjacent to His City?* Mr. English told of his experience as recreation executive in Wilkes-Barre, near which are situated eighteen communities of from four or five thousand to forty thousand inhabitants. It was impossible for each of these communities to have a recreation staff but all wanted a recreation program. To meet the demand the Wyoming Valley Playground Commission was organized and representative men and women from the outlying communities were invited to join. The Commission immediately started its program by organizing playgrounds in communities which never before had had them. It

asked these communities to find available space and equipment and if possible to provide leadership. If this could not be done, leaders were supplied through the central office at Wilkes-Barre. The playgrounds have developed from twelve in number to fifty and the small communities are getting the benefit of the larger group planning. The work done has not cost more than \$500.

W. J. Cartier of Columbus, Georgia, told how in seventeen rural communities the central Community Service group was able to train teachers in game leadership. Assistance was also given in planning programs and at the end of two years there had been built up a splendid corps of workers for rural work.

The experience of Wilkes-Barre and other communities, it was felt, shows the desirability and practicability of service from a larger city to the smaller community in the outlying district. There is a very definite and real responsibility in aiding outlying districts, which the recreation executive cannot escape.

*What Health Activities Can Be Effectively Conducted on the Playground?* The discussion of this question was opened by Dr. Burdick, who pointed out how the recreation executives must through activities attain certain standards in the recreation field. One way of maintaining these standards is through health examinations. We have been talking about the defects of children without finding out the conditions of environment; health instruction must sustain this and health habits must be built up. In Baltimore certificates are awarded children who attain 90% in health activities and the city goes so far as to believe that its health service must extend to babies.

Mr. Nash, who has been making a study of health education in a number of cities, stated that as a result of his study he has come to the conclusion that health education is not a function of the playground—that it can be better done in the schools. The playground, however, has a very definite function to perform in the relation to health and that is the provision of exercise. Every child should have the opportunity for vigorous, big-muscle, joy-producing exercise.

Another function of the playground in relation to health is to see that facilities are properly cared for. Still another is the organization of groups on the playgrounds to care for matters of cleanliness and safety. In the prevention of smoking

(Continued on page 547)



# Objectives in Community Recreation \*

By JOHN H. FINLEY, LL.D.

*Associate Editor, New York Times*

I suppose that Mr. Dickie has heard of an experience of mine not long ago out on the prairies. I was speaking one night in a church. There was no clock there and there was no desk on the platform for my watch. Fearing that I would speak too long, as I generally do, I took out my open-faced watch and gave it to a boy, sitting in the front row. I said, "Will you hold this watch up so I can see it occasionally?"

I had spoken for a while when I heard something drop. The boy had gone to sleep and let the watch fall on the floor! So if anyone has a cuckoo clock in the house he may put it to the same use.

I have an announcement to make. I realize this is for my benefit, although, ostensibly, it is for yours. I am told to advise you to be informal, and that the older recreation workers are to greet the younger. Well, you all seem to me to be of about the same age. I don't know how that can be managed. I suppose you mean "older" in length of service. So will you please be as informal as you can? But I know that this is meant for me and that I am to be as informal as I can be.

I inquired as to whether I was to stand up and introduce myself, or just begin the proceedings, and I was told that there ought to be some sort of introduction, because the people didn't know who I was.

I remember an experience that I had in Otto Mallery's College. I don't think Otto knew me at that time. I was—I will say it as modestly as I can—a professor in Princeton at that time, and someone from the West came to see me—some relative. Now in Princeton we don't run trains on Sunday. We didn't, then, at any rate. So he landed somewhere out in the environs of Princeton, between Princeton and Trenton, and had to find his way around town. He found a hack and drove up and down the main street of Princeton, endeavoring to find somebody who knew where I lived. At last he saw three students. He stuck his head out of the carriage and called to the boys, "Can you tell me where

Professor Finley lives?" And they said, "Never heard of him."

I was introduced, or identified, the other day in a very embarrassing way, by Mary Pickford. Have you ever heard of Mary Pickford? I was at a table the other day with Mary Pickford. She didn't know that I was this prophet that has been referred to here tonight. She thought I was just an ordinary person. She didn't know about my academic history, which I will not impose upon you further, and she was asked to cast, for screen parts, the men who were sitting about the table—and she cast me for the part of a vagrant. "Well," I said, "if you only cast me for the part of the Beloved Vagabond, I would be willing to take the part."

I am a sort of vagrant here tonight, and I have to apologize not for being here but for running away. I am a vagrant, I shall have to admit, but I am a destined vagrant and, I think I may say, being a Presbyterian, a pre-destined vagrant, and I have to go back to New York City as soon as I am able to go tonight. I have already missed the first train and I will take the one that gets in at four o'clock in the morning.

When I was a boy out on the prairies, there was a neighbor farmer's boy who had a passion for riding on the hearse at funerals. This passion was, I suspect, inherited, though biologists tell me that there is no such thing as inheriting an acquired characteristic. However, I think there must be, for his father had been an undertaker in his earliest days, and this passion possessed the son until he at last made his journey *inside* of the hearse instead of on the seat with the driver. Life is, I fear, as sombre a journey for some as it was for that youth, the objective of whose thoughts was the cemetery to which he finally went, young in years.

But the objective of the recreation movement is not only to delay that last journey, which all must take sooner or later, as long as possible by promoting health, but to make life a joyous adventure while we live. It is—to use a motto which I had on my desk for many years when I was a college president out in the West, and have had in my memory since—I have forgotten

\*Address delivered at opening session of Eleventh Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, October 16, 1924



whether it was the third or fourth reader—namely, to make every day a fresh beginning and to find every morn the world made new. This is recreation and this is the end of recreation. Every day is a new creation.

I asked Mr. Braucher what he would name as the objectives of a recreational leisure time movement. I rather expected him to write the speech for me. But this is all I got, and it is quite enough, perhaps. I am not sure that I ought to read any more than that, because it is all-embracing. This was his answer:

"It is true that health is promoted through all the activities of a leisure time leader in a community; that juvenile delinquency is reduced; that men are made better workers; that a spirit is created in the community which makes it possible for men to do business. But I think the thing that holds me most, personally, is to see children and young men and women made more 'greedy' for life, more interested in all that is happening in the world; feeling to a greater extent a part of all that is happening; thinking of themselves as members of their neighborhood and their community, and more thoroughly happy in their relationships in the home, in the church, in their fraternal organizations, in their community centers. With all the machinery that is developing in modern life, is it not possible, through attention to leisure time, to build up a soul that shall keep its own life even though all of the tremendous machinery of modern life does seem to press insistently and constantly? I know of no better phrase than, 'I came that ye may have life and have it more abundantly.'"

Well, that is a good answer, as intimating our mission both to the country child and to the city child. And when I think of the country child I think of a boy up in the Catskills whom I came across one morning. I had lost my way and walked all night, or most of the night, about forty miles in a snow-storm. In the morning I at last heard a sound in a shack of a house I was passing—and I knew that sound. The boy, or somebody, was starting a fire in the kitchen stove. You know what that sound is. I knocked at the door and finally there was an answer, and the red-headed boy, with almost no clothing—it was a very cold morning—and a sore face, answered the door and told me to come in. I said, "Boy, where does this road lead?" It was a road that was getting worse and worse, and the snow was deep. He said, "It don't lead nowhere. It just goes up here a little way and stops."

I have often thought, what a picture that is of the life of many a country boy, yes, and city boy, too—"Just goes a little way and stops. It don't lead nowhere."

I am ready, I say, to accept Mr. Braucher's answer as mine, and move its adoption by this organization. But I wish to add something of my own as a specific objective, namely, the development of the spirit of good sportsmanship. It is only another way of saying the development and promotion of the highest ethical standards for one's own life and for one's own relations with one's neighbors, or, as my pastor, Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, said one morning in his sermon, that sportsmanship is "something that is closely akin to the meaning and quality of Christian life."

Many years ago, in conversation with that great out-of-doors man and mountain-climber, the author of the *American Commonwealth*, Lord Bryce—(and here I am reminded of the time when a professor in my college advised his pupils to read Bryce's *Holy Roman Empire*. They had never heard of any of his books except the *American Commonwealth*. One of the boys got somewhat confused and asked for Bryce's *Holy American Commonwealth*)—I was thanking him for an essay which he had written about an English schoolmaster. It was better than any of the essays that he had written of statesmen, prelates or great scholars. His voice choked and the eyes of this rugged man filled with tears as he replied—and then I knew why he had written best of this schoolmaster, Edward Bowen, of Harrow. But what I remember best of this biographical sketch was that he said that Bowen was always saying to his boys, "Take the bitter with the sweet as the sweet and bitter come, and play the game."

Play the game! That is the essence of sportsmanship—playing the game. The value of play is that in most of its expressions, quite apart from the physical value of the exercise, it is teaching honesty, courage, fairness, quickness of decision, self-control, resourcefulness, loyalty. It teaches us to play the game of life honorably, bravely, adventurously and even reverently.

So in promoting play and helping to make it possible for children and youth and even adults to play, to hold athletic contests and to exert themselves in out-of-door sports, the Playground and Recreation Association of America, and the associations that are represented here tonight, are not only promoting health but also improving mentality and cultivating ethical treatment of

those with whom we play the game of life—helping to develop the highest type of manhood and womanhood.

And I wish to say, Mr. Chairman, that while you introduced me as the Vice-Chairman of your organization, I am here tonight as a representative of the American Association for the advancement of Science. I was designated as its representative. Even that great Association is interested in your objects. From the scientific point of view, they are hoping to prolong life. It was reported this morning that men in London are now living twenty years longer than their grandfathers, and it was reported that at a scientific meeting held in Washington or Philadelphia, someone prophesied that men would be living a thousand years—going back to Methuselah, who lived, do you remember, just how long? As I recall, it was nine hundred and sixty-eight or sixty-nine years.

I remember an occasion when I had just come back from Mount Ararat, and I had great respect for Noah—greater than I ever had before. That mountain is seventeen thousand feet high, and Noah was a good deal of a mariner if he could make a landing on that mountain. Well, I was referring to Noah, and someone asked me if I knew how Methuselah came to his death. I said that I supposed he came to his death in the natural way—he had lived long enough. “No, he was drowned.” And he gave me the scriptural reference, wherein there is one verse which says that Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-three years and begat Lamak, and that Lamak lived one hundred eighty-five years, we’ll say, and begat Noah. And then in another verse it says that the flood came six hundred years after the birth of Noah. I think that makes it nine hundred and sixty-eight or nine hundred and sixty-nine years. And there is also another verse in the Bible which says that Methuselah lived nine hundred and sixty-eight or nine hundred and sixty-nine years. So the circumstantial evidence is all to the effect that he was drowned.

Just think of it! We may, ourselves, be able to prolong life, so I am told by these scientists of the great organization I represent—we may live longer—and then we will make it worth while to live out those years.

When the President of the United States welcomed a great ball-player, whose name I do not need to mention, a few days ago, it was not only because of that man’s skill as a pitcher—it was also because of the character he had shown. He

played the game through many years. He took his defeats manfully. He came modestly and manfully into his triumph. The approval of the public, as the President said, was a tribute to the good sportsmanship and clean play that brought victory.

Michael Pupin, the great physicist, whose inventions have helped to make possible long-distance speech, coming to America as an immigrant youth from Serbia, gave this definition of what America meant to him. Perhaps some of you have read it in his memoirs:

“Play the game. What a wonderful phrase! I studied it long, and the more I thought about it, the more I was convinced that one aspect of the history of this country, with all its traditions, is summed up in these words: To ‘play the game’ according to the best traditions of the land which offered me all of its opportunities, was always my idea of Americanization.”

Not only is play the birthright of every child born in this land where freedom to pursue happiness is promised to all, but it is the prerogative of the adult, as well, to keep till death ends, both work and play.

As someone has said, “People do not stop playing because they grow old; they grow old because they stop playing.”

A notable illustration of playing into old age has just been given by a friend of mine, whose funeral I have attended within the last fortnight—Honorable Herbert L. Bridgman, the Editor of the *Standard Union*. He was more than eighty year of age, and although of that age, he went off on a voyage a few weeks ago with the boys in training on board the Nautical School Ship “Newport.” He had climbed mountains in his younger days. In middle age he had commanded ships that went up on relief expeditions into the Arctic Ocean. Like Ulysses, it was never too late for him to seek a newer world. He kept the spirit of adventure and play to the day of his death, like that other distinguished Brooklynite, Alfred T. White, who lost his life at seventy and upwards, while out skating.

I was walking in Ireland in the midst of the day of terror three years and more ago. As I passed a cottage at the roadside out in the country, I saw three little children playing and not a grown person in sight, though I found later that they were not far away. They were afraid to show themselves, thinking that perhaps I was a Black-and-Tan. But those children, with the instinctive love of play, were putting pebbles in

a bucket and then emptying it and filling it again—a very simple sort of a game. The father, who later came round the end of the house, when he found that I was an American, said, "They'll not be doing that when they grow up. It's too much like work."

Well, some of us make play of our work, for I do not agree with Mark Twain that work consists of whatever a body is obliged to do, and play of whatever a body is not obliged to do. But those who accept Mark Twain's as their definition have yet, most of them, ample time left in which to play and so make them able and even happy to do what they insist is work.

I was brought up on the song—I suppose you don't know it—*Work for the Night Is Coming*. I remember we were told to work in the morning hours, to work while the dew was sparkling, and to work with the springing flowers. And we were told to violate all of the rules of the Union and work during the noon-hour, and then to work on and on until the last beam faded, to shine no more. Something to that effect, as I remember. And the only sad line of that was that the night was coming on when no man could work. It was a song of joyous work that was play, because it was enjoyed.

The officers of a great railroad system, which has spent millions of dollars for playgrounds and recreation buildings for its workers, say, "We are taking the wrecks out of the system by taking the wreck out of recreation." I apologize for that pun. But what they meant by that was that their men were getting a sort of recreation that did not interfere with their doing their work in the world. It really meant, too, that this recreation was also preventing the wrecking of many a worker's own life and cultivating his sportsmanship.

Our chief aim is that children may have the chance to play even in the most crowded cities—that they may be helped to remember their Crea-

tor in the days of their youth, in the joy of wholesome recreation before the evil days come and the years draw nigh when they will say that they have no pleasure in them.

A dear old Salvation Army "Lassie" was telling of her experience in trying to catch a train. She said, "I had to catch a train one day, and I knew I was late, so I ran and ran and ran, and just got into the station, breathless, in time to see the train pull out. One of the trainmen said to me, 'Mother, you'll have to run harder next time.' I said, 'Son, there wasn't anything the matter with my running. I reckon I just didn't get started in time.'"

We want the children to get "started in time," so that they will not miss their opportunities for happiness throughout their lives. They may not be able to run fast, but if they will do the best with what they have, that is playing the game. That is sportsmanship.

Sportsmanship is, after all, a thing of the spirit, the body merely helping all it can.

St. Paul wrote a fine, sportsmanlike epitaph for himself when he said, "I've fought a good fight. I've kept the faith." But Dr. Fosdick has given a better version of it: "I've enjoyed a good fight. I've finished the race. I've played the game."

The first great commandment—and I say this reverently—is to play the game with all our heart and soul and strength.

That is loving the Divine Creator. And the second great commandment, which relates to our neighbors, is like unto it. It is to play the game according to the Golden Rule. On these two commandments hang all the law of individual happiness and the prophecies of collective welfare.

May you all who are workers be transitive verbs—if you remember what they are—helping individual nouns to reach such objectives as I have defined.

My own belief is that man is not all kinds of creature but a certain kind, and that his interests, roughly, are in competition, art, science, love and loyalty. It is only as he becomes enlisted in the service of these interests that he really lives.

Of course he has got to have certain things in order to do anything at all, such as life, liberty, property, freedom of contract. But there is no good in having the stage cleared and the curtain rung up if you don't put on the play.

—Joseph Lee.



## Leadership\*

WHAT A SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION  
NEEDS TO KNOW

BY CHESTER GEPPERT MARSH,  
*Director, Recreation Commission, Westchester  
County, New York.*

The first, greatest and all-important thing that a superintendent of recreation needs to know is that his vocation is a glorious one. He should become thoroughly saturated with the knowledge that his work is at all times one of service to humanity, that he is a crusader to whom is entrusted the task of rescuing the real joy of living from the infidel hordes of machine made pleasures.

Some one has said that there has never been known so savage a thing as our modern civilization. Since primitive ages when men gathered in groups to withstand the dangers that threatened them from many sources, they have reasoned together to make life less rigorous, and in doing this a civilization has been slowly built up that threatens to become a Frankenstein. The real work of the superintendent of recreation, then, is to offset the great danger which threatens us, of being caught up in this great machine and losing the power of real living, real doing and active participation.

The qualifications for this work have not as yet been standardized and it is difficult to tabulate the things a superintendent of recreation needs to know; the vocation is a new one and covers an ever-increasing range of subjects. The superintendent of recreation is usually expected to know some things about everything and everything about some things; his versatility should range from the planning and building of a community house to the making of paper dolls.

The very machines which have deprived us today of the channels for our creative impulses have given us more leisure hours to be filled by our re-creative programs.

The superintendent of recreation is not a broadcasting station nor a receiving set, he is an amplifier making it possible for all within radius of his recreative program to be touched by the vibrations of pleasures formerly reserved for the privileged.

To qualify for this work he should know how to organize; how to organize his activities, his office, his workers; how to organize his entire

system that it may cooperate with other city departments in order that all may work together for the greatest good without duplication of effort. To this end he must of course familiarize himself with the functions of the various departments of the city government. He must *know* his city.

He must know his city geographically, topographically, psychologically, sociologically and economically. He must know the people who dwell in the city—the various groups in which they are already organized, the civic groups, the churches, clubs and all other definitely organized bodies, the purpose for which they are organized, how far their organization can fulfill the recreational needs, if functioning properly, how his department can help these organizations to fulfill their mission. In other words, how he can amplify their efforts instead of setting up other broadcasting stations and interfering with their vibrations.

He must know the religious customs and the racial customs of his people, the various feast days, fast days and holidays and see that his program does not interfere but assists and amplifies. He should *know* his city.

The recreation executive should have a thorough knowledge of physical education, should be familiar with athletics and the conduct of athletic events. He should have a thorough knowledge of games for all ages and for all occasions. He should know pageantry, perhaps not in all its details, as it is always possible to employ a director who is specialized in this field, but he should at least know enough about it to know whether the one employed knows her business. This should apply to drama, to dancing, to craft work, to music and to all activities that fill or should fill the leisure time of his people. He should have the same working knowledge of all these subjects that a builder has of the various details that go into the construction of a house. The builder does not need to be an electrician but he should know where the lights should be placed and that the people who are to dwell in the house need lights. He does not need to know how to make door knobs and hinges but he does need to know that doors should have door knobs and hinges and should be made to open and close.

In the building up of a recreation program I feel that we have not sufficiently stressed the cultural side of leisure time activities. As Stevenson so happily tells us, "The world is so full of a number of things, I'm sure we should all be as

\*Report of meeting on Leadership held October 17 and 18, 1934. Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, New Jersey.



happy as kings." And he should be able to open all avenues of joy, including the happiness of knowing good pictures, good music and good books. To open these avenues the superintendent of recreation needs to know these subjects and to know how to make them available to the people. Here again he should be an amplifier for the library and the concert halls—he should help to bring these joys to the people and to bring the people to enjoy them.

He should know the theory of play—why he is a superintendent of recreation. I know of no better source of knowledge and spring of inspiration than Joseph Lee's *Play in Education*. Every superintendent of recreation should know this book from cover to cover and should insist on his workers knowing it.

He should know in what part of his city playgrounds are needed and he should never stop in his efforts to secure plots for playgrounds where they are needed. And when these spaces are secured he should know how to plan for their use by the greatest number with the fullest program possible. He should know how to plan all types of courts and athletic fields, what apparatus to buy, where to place it for the greatest safety of all who use it, its daily care, what equipment is needed, how to plan swimming pools, shelter houses and community houses.

He should know the civic laws governing the use of municipal parks and buildings for recreational purposes, regarding physical education and appropriations for recreational activities and he must keep closely in touch with all enactments of legislation, national, state and local, that affect the people's leisure time.

He should recognize the necessity for proper publicity and should keep the people informed at all times of the opportunities open to them and of the activities of his department.

He should be constantly studying, constantly fitting himself to fill this important position with its broad field of influence and service. And be-

sides all this, the superintendent of recreation needs to know all the things which most people have forgotten—the instincts, the hungers and the ideals of the growing boy and girl and he must know that channels of expression for these must be provided in the modern scheme of things.

For advice and inspiration he cannot do better than to knock at the door of memory and inquire for the little boy he once was. Put the problem frankly up to him, sit down and talk things over with him. Ask him what he loved to do under certain conditions and he will tell you of the thrill of the big show in the dim old cobwebby carriage house, of the trapeze in the hay mow, the long swing on the apple tree in the back yard where he could stand up on the woodshed roof and swing off, the old swimming hole, the "crick" where he fished, the hunts for violets in the spring and "warlnuts" in the fall, the exquisite embarrassment of dancing school and the unalloyed joy of the "masquerade ball" at the end of the term—the coasting, the skating, the snow forts and snow men—a long list of joys for which he must provide substitutes.

The recreation superintendent must know what will take the place of the old carriage house for dramatics—the modern garage certainly won't do. He must know a place to put the trapeze and rings since the hay mow is obsolete, and as to the swing on the apple tree in the back yard—how can there be a swing when in most cases there is no apple tree and no back yard and certainly no woodshed? So on down the list—the old swimmin' hole sullied by factory waste; the fish scared away from the "crick" or maybe the "crick" gone altogether, swallowed up in the march of civilization.

All these things must a superintendent know, and not vicariously if he would fulfill adequately the position which has been born of the necessity of combating an iron age and a machine made world.

#### EXTRACTS FROM PRESIDENT COOLIDGE'S FIRST MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

"We realize the common bond of humanity. We know the inescapable law of service."

"Our national Government is not doing as much as it legitimately can to promote the welfare of the people."

"American institutions rest solely on good citizenship. . . . Those who do not want to be partakers of the American spirit ought not to settle in America."

"New powers bring new responsibilities . . . our duty now is to give stability to the world. We want idealism. We want that vision which lifts men and nations above themselves."

# The Community Arts Association of Santa Barbara, California

BY HAMILTON MACFADDEN

*Executive Secretary*

Dr. Keppel and Prof. Koch last night touched upon some of the phases of the things that we are doing in Santa Barbara. And Dr. Keppel laid down some fundamental principles. One of those was this: that you can't superimpose upon a community the impulse and the desire for this art, or whatever this expression is we are going to have; you must let it come of itself from them. I would like to make one amendment to that idea: that most of those things don't start of themselves in a group. Some one individual, or two or three individuals, have got to get the idea, draw people together, suggest the field into which they may throw their energy and their impulses; then we can have a community movement. But we must have both the community, which always has the local impulse, and the leader, who is keen enough to detect that local impulse and direct it to where it can get the fullest expression and be of the greatest value to the town in which he finds himself.

I have been fortunate enough to be thrown with some of the finest people in the world—and there are many of them. And what I say today merely is a transformation of their thoughts and their ideas that come through me to you; they are not from me.

I still maintain that your leader is your important person and that your community and your movement will be no greater and no bigger than the character of the man at the wheel. We have a lot of art for art's sake. Why? I will answer that later on when I come to another point. But the thing I am trying to get across today is that we don't want in our community art unrelated to life.

Prof. Koch last night said that he thought from his plays and his play-writing that we were going to get a local spirit of nationality. I want to carry that idea one step further as a background to the community art movement and say that I would like to make it *locally international*. I

think that is the new approach that our generation wants and has. We should like to become locally international.

Now, the Community Arts Association of Santa Barbara interested me tremendously the minute I got out of college, because in college I was fortunate enough to be connected with Dr. Archibald T. Davidson, who is the present conductor of the Harvard Glee Club. I lived next door to him before I went to college. And when I got there I knew what his dream had been. They offered me the management of the club. And we, a little, small group, not the Glee Club as a whole, persuaded the Glee Club as a whole to give up singing college songs and sing nothing but the finest choral works.

Our Alumni said, "You boys can't sing things like that. You are not singers. That requires technique and training." Dr. Davidson said, "All right, you give me youth and intelligence, and I will do anything that is possible for mankind to do." He took youth and he took intelligence, and today there isn't a hall in Harvard University large enough to hold the number of men who want to sing in the Harvard Glee Club—let alone those who would like to hear them.

The same thing is true of this community art movement. We can reach down into every individual in our community and relieve him from the stress under which our material civilization is placing him. We all have these impulses, these instincts, every one of us. But our age is an age not only of standardization but of specialization in our standardized field. Therefore, if you are going to make a success, as the world you are asked to live in calls it, you have got to become a specialist.

And what am I to do with the rest of me? It can't live in the line I am specializing in. Education is taking a trend toward what they call vocational training—an excellent idea, provided it doesn't mean a diffusion of the other things which education formerly meant.

So this community art movement has sprung

\*Address given at the Eleventh Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, New Jersey, October 18, 1924.

up in Santa Barbara, because we had there an unusual situation. It is a town of thirty thousand people, eight thousand of whom are exceedingly wealthy. They have been all over the world, have lived interesting lives, some of them, and they are settling down. The other twenty-two thousand cater to their wants. They are small tradespeople. There are no industries there at all. So we haven't a factory problem.

There you have twenty-two thousand people and eight thousand people put together. Now, the eight thousand have been everywhere and have seen all there is to be seen. And the twenty-two thousand, a great many of them, have never been out of the State of California—and a great many of them never want to go. Now what are you going to do with them?

Well, some people got together and decided they would produce a play, just for fun. No good plays came out to Santa Barbara. So they got together and somebody gave them fifty dollars, and they put on a play and had thirty-five dollars left over after they put the play on. So they put on another play and had a little more money left over. Then they decided they would organize.

They organized, got a professional director and started in to produce plays. That was four years ago last August. On August fourth of this year we opened the Le Varro Theatre, a theatre built especially for the Community Arts Players of Santa Barbara by the town. It seats six hundred and fifty-two people and has a stage-house and equipment that no stock house for professional companies in the country can compete with.

Now, why did they do that? Well, these rich people out there have seen, as I said, everything there is to be seen, and they found that these townspeople, under the proper direction, could produce a play that gave them more pleasure than anything they had ever seen on Broadway. There was a freshness to it which they couldn't find in professional companies. Naturally, they were reduced to type casting, but their types were perfect. They had the whole community to draw from. They knew what personalities they wanted, and they walked up and down the street and found them.

We went into a fish market and saw a fat, old fish man cutting fish. He was absolutely perfect for the part we wanted in *Enter Madame*. He had never acted in his life, hardly could speak English and didn't understand what we wanted

him to do for a while. Finally, he got the idea and said that he would come. So he came. He was the joy of all the rehearsals. That was the greatest experience he had ever had in his life. And since then he has been a different man and he lives for the day when he will be allowed to play once more on the stage of the Community Arts Players. At the same time that man had to give up time during his working hours, and he had long working hours. But he gave up every single night for four solid weeks, four hours each night, and he never missed once. And you couldn't keep him away from rehearsals of other plays today.

They have such a high standard of production that now the town won't accept anything that doesn't really make an improvement upon the best things which the professional road companies bring to town.

So we found we have got two things to do. We have an audience to be treated as part of the community and be given the best of the masters today. Then we have the people in town who want to act, write and do things of that sort. We must furnish them a workshop. And when an audience comes to that, they are playing their community part then, not as actors but as an audience. The actors are the people for whom the show is put on that night, and on other occasions it is for the audience.

So we have the two schools—one where we take our seasoned actors and the production is the finest kind that you can imagine. We use professional stage hands. We opened that theatre with *Beggar on Horseback*, which is probably one of the most difficult things to do. Mr. Ames was kind enough to release the rights to it before it went out on the road. We had a crew of twenty-four professionals on that. But when the show is for the amateurs, for the actor, for the scene painter, nothing on that stage is professional. That is entirely amateur. And the audience understands it and comes in that spirit and comes on that night to applaud and encourage and assist and not to demand their money's worth, so to speak. It is their turn to give.

Music sprang up as a separate organization. People realized that they were going out into the community with two appeals—so they thought: "Why not get together and have a community organization and make one appeal and divide the money where it is needed?" So they did that, and a little later on took into it a school of the arts which had been started in Santa Barbara,



and then added a plans and planting department—which to me is one of the most interesting community things we have out there.

That department has two branches—plans and planting. In the planting department they do children's gardens. There are over four hundred children's gardens going on today under the garden supervisor. That entails cleaning up all the dirty backyards in the town as well as the dirty frontyards. And in the Flower Show held recently, the first prize was taken by a little chap of eleven years old who had his own garden in his own front yard.

Then they do small house landscaping. There are people who will only spend six dollars to landscape their front yards. But that doesn't bother our garden supervisor. He says, "You give me six dollars and I will make you spend twenty-five dollars in two months." That may be the working man who doesn't know where to get the twenty-five dollars. He gets his six dollars and he has some kind friends up on the hillside with lots of flowers and plants and they give some to him, and so the man who spends six dollars is encouraged by receiving a couple of plants. If he takes care of them and improves them, the supervisor sees that the man gets some more. And pretty soon he has that man spending his twenty-five dollars to make his front yard and the surroundings of his house attractive and beautiful.

Another branch is the plans. There they have attempted to get at the small homes building.

Why should we build in Santa Barbara for these twenty-two thousand who live out there houses that do not compare in style and architecture with the beautiful mansions that are put up at vast sums in Montosetto? It is not a fair thing to ask them to hire the same architectural advice. So they get the best architects together and say, "You draw us plans for small homes and we will put them together in book form, keep the plans on file at our office and the people may come in and get those plans for a nominal charge and make use of the finest architectural advice that the country can give them." That goes into the small home.

In other words, this is community art. It is applied art. It is a question of proportion, once more. And the thing I want to emphasize here is that these groups sprang up as individual groups. Today they are a unit. And having become a unit, they have realized that there is absolutely no field of art that they cannot enter

into; in each they can achieve something on a community basis.

In connection with the opening of the theatre, we put on a local town fiesta this summer. We have not been reaching down into the merchants on State Street. We haven't touched those people at all. They don't see what it is all about and are not interested in the small homes. They don't like our plays. They think they are high-brow. And we can't get at them. So we conceived the idea of getting them to help us put on a fiesta in Santa Barbara that would knit everybody together.

We had Kiwanians, Rotarians, members of the Exchange Club and other clubs of our regular American business men absolutely committed to the idea of not using any advertising for their business or any other business in Santa Barbara but of making the one thought of this fiesta beauty and the carnival spirit. And there was no other thought in that fiesta but beauty and the carnival spirit.

We had outdoor dancing, five thousand people dancing on a street corner that was roped off. There was not one single case of rowdiness. No police were necessary. Everybody had a grand time.

Some of the finest horses that California had ever seen turned out, because the old Spanish rancher said, "For once we have got a chance to come out in a movement which is not commercial but which comes back and says, 'What has California got that is beautiful, interesting and lovely?' Well, she has some pretty fine horses. And under those conditions we will turn those horses out." Sam Stanwood, who lived in Santa Barbara for years, said that he never saw such a turn-out of fine, beautifully equipped horses as long as he had been there.

That has all come about from a community art movement. And I would like to pass on for just a moment to some of the problems that those things led us to. These are the difficult questions which come up: When you have found your local group, when you start to expand, when you have made a success, what are you going to do? What is your direction? Shall we encourage the young man that shows some amateur talent to become a professional? And if we expand and add to our teaching staff, shall it be in the line of more advanced teachers who can carry a man right straight through to a professional career? Or, shall we increase the number of elementary subjects so that the entire town may come to have



some one class in which the individual may find his means of expression?

There you have your conflict. That is why I say it is essential that you should be a unity and that there should be a board which these individual experts in the various departments have confidence in and are willing to recognize and, as Dr. Keppel said last night, have team play.

The teacher of the graphic arts says, "We need a sculptor in our town." But the dramatic teacher says, "We can't carry on our experimental individual work unless there is someone on my staff to take over that branch." They both cost money, and there is only a certain amount of money to use. Who is going to win—the art school or the drama?

Well, there has to be somebody, some one person who can go out and find out how many people in that community are going to be reached by the sculptor and how many reached by our new drama person. And on the basis of what he finds out is the local condition and situation, your organization bases its decision; and the art school may wait ten years to get a sculptor, while music and drama and plans and planting get all kinds of attention.

The thing which each person, each individual unit inside our organization has to remember is that he must wait his turn, because he is not doing art for art's sake, but he is doing a community art job and it is fitting his own particular local community; and if there isn't a need there for the vision and dream he may have, he must bide his time and wait. And that is the most difficult thing to get across to the real artistic genius. He is impatient. He does not want to wait. He sees much more clearly than you or I exactly what he wants to do. He knows what the value will be after he has it. But the thing we have to take into consideration is, "What will it do today in my community as compared with this other field?"

I should like to say something of the philosophy back of all this community art movement. But we of the younger generation feel a little bit uncertain as to what we want to do when we come out in life, because we recognize that we are being forced into certain lines of work which are going to destroy things in us which we regard as valuable.

How are we going to get away from it? What are we going to do about it? I can simplify life very easily if I will adopt a set of rules and standards and say, "Than these there are no others." But that doesn't make me a very human sort of

person. If I am going to be able to use the faculties which I was fortunate enough to possess when I was born, I must have some means of expressing all of them.

Now, what I meant when I said that I wanted to become locally international was this: Plays, music, any form of art is not competitive. What I do in that field doesn't take away from you. If there is one apple and you and I are together, whatever I eat you lose. If you and I are doing something in the artistic field together, whatever I do is your gain. And, therefore, the first approach to international understanding and friendship or community understanding and friendship applied to the individual and the nation, is an understanding point of view; because, after all, art tells us what our point of view towards life is, if it is true local art.

The great difficulty, as I see it today, is that we are concerned in our international contacts only in the competitive basis. We want to make regulations on the competitive basis, so that our competitive side may have the advantage. And it is immaterial to us whether the Orientals—the barbarians, as we like to call them—have something in their civilization which may well save ours. It is immaterial to us if we destroy that, so long as our American oil companies shall meet no further competition.

Through plays, through art, people come together. A Swede and a Frenchman and an American and a Jap and a Chinaman, may all sing a German folk song. You go to a symphony concert and you will find a Russian conductor, a French fiddler, a German fiddler, an American fiddler and a Swedish trombone player, and they are all producing a harmonious result. They have no difficulty in working together because they are focused to a common end. They have one idea among them, and the leader expresses that idea for them.

If I go into a play, I am asked by the director, "What is the character of this play like? Are its emotions sincere? Why does he do such and such a thing?" And we finally get down to understand the reasons why the author had this character do this thing. Then, after learning that, if I run across a person who has had the same problems as the person in this play had, I am sympathetic and I understand; I no longer judge him from my point of view, but I judge him from the point of view I have learned in that play.

We sing together in a chorus of music and we get out afterwards and talk things over. And

the richest experiences we had were the few moments when we were singing. Those were the things that brought us together.

And the appeal that I am trying to make is for us to carry this into our community art—not for art's sake, but for life's sake. I don't want you to take people out of their walks of life and make them something they aren't. But I want you to make them what they always were meant to be, and that is a home man and not a business man—not a lawyer, not a politician, but a home man.

To get back to our basis—art, then, must mean something to these people. The Japanese know what it means. The Chinese have a faint conception of it, if you would only grant them that. We haven't begun to use it at all. But when we get each individual in our community finding some means of making things beautiful, learning the value of form, learning the value of all the various instruments that mankind is using, then you can hope to build people who are broad-minded, who are locally loyal but internationally-minded.

And it is contact with such ideas and such ideals that is going to mean the uplifting of our common people. Civilizations pass away only when you restrict your high idealism.

Psychology will tell you, if I may be scientific, that the way to tell a man or the way to break a man from a habit is not to say, "Don't do that," but to give him something else to take up the energy he employed in doing that particular thing.

You find our young boys in college thrown into a mass, and they are turned out upon society through dances; and then you wonder why the age goes jazz-mad. They have absolutely no association, in a social way, with girls, except through dancing.

Suppose you let us put on plays together. Suppose you had us sing choruses together. Suppose you had us study the Chinese idea of life, the Japanese idea of life, by presenting pictures of it to our minds. Our thoughts and our whole idea would not be on our relation to that particular girl, but on what we as human beings mean in this great universe of which we are a tiny part. And we would go out of there with a vision and a freshness and a point of view and an attack which is absolutely impersonal from that point of view, yet satisfactory to all our instincts.

And so I can see, coming up in these little towns and, also, the big cities, a movement whereby our social order is changed. People have a normal existence together. We do something for a common end, not for our own selfish pleasure. That is the difficulty with our dance today. I go to have a good time, not to give anybody else a good time. And it is impossible to give anybody else but myself a good time on the present dance floor. So I become bored with life and become blasé. It is not my fault entirely. I had a perfect right to see other people, but not under those conditions.

And so, once again, let me come back and say if you carry this idea back to your community, remember to emphasize the unity of your art. Apply whatever art you use to the particular needs and conditions in your own town. Don't copy Santa Barbara, don't copy San Diego or Jacksonville, Florida. See your own home. You have talent. You have everything there. Give it a chance to come out. And I am sure that when all these things come out throughout the country we shall find a real national art, a real, almost international mind in art, springing up among the American people.

When we gay dogs, you and I, get weary, "that tired feeling" simply says, "Stop." It is a danger signal. It means that our blood is poisoned, and that we should rest till the healthful processes of the body can neutralize the "toxins" of fatigue.

If we are badly tired, let us look candidly for the cause. Our fatigue may be due to work; but then, again, it may be due to too little sleep, improper food or foolish recreation. If you rack your bodily machine with joy riding, don't blame your job for that. The job does not cause your Monday grouch.

Make a habit of reasonable work. Balance it with sane habits of rest and recreation. Do this and "that tired feeling" will cease to pursue you.

From "Listening In," by Henry Copley Green, Boston Metropolitan Chapter, American Red Cross  
Printed from *The South End Almanac*

## Community Drama\*

The round table discussions on Community Drama at the Recreation Congress aroused much interest. The nature of the conferences made possible the asking and answering of definite questions on specific phases of drama production and a valuable interchange of opinion and many practical suggestions were the result.

At the first conference held on October 17, at which Mrs. Mabel F. Hobbs, of the Community Drama Service of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, served as Chairman, the first question discussed was that of the *Payment of Royalties*.

Mrs. Hobbs pointed out that the mimeographing of printed plays is not only unethical and dangerous but is unfair both to the playwright or the author. There would be no incentive for the playwright or the author, she said, if plays could not be sold and royalties charged. According to the copyright laws, there is no alternative for a group producing the play other than the payment of a royalty.

"What is the definition of a fantasy? Does it do more harm than good?" A fantasy, in the opinion of most of those present, is delightful and charming—ever illusive imagination like the *Will o' the Wisp*. In its technical sense the fantasy means folk lore, fairy tales, religious myths, or tradition and requires a deep psychological study. *Six Who Pass While the Lentils Boil* was cited as a fantasy not at all grotesque in its nature. In the *Silver Thread* children forget the grotesque. The first fantasy, Miss Higgins, of Boston Community Service, said, was written by a child. We need more fantasies to preserve the spirit of childhood and the creative imagination of our race.

Another question raised was *What Are the Relative Merits of Three One-Act Plays or One Three-Act Play for Community Players?* Mr. George Junkin, Organizer of Community Drama, Playground and Recreation Association of America, suggested that the answer to this question depends largely upon the group. If this group is made up of beginners, it is well to start with one-act plays, presenting a curtain raiser, a pantomime, a comedy and a drama. Mr. Junkin cited the experience of the Leominster, Massachusetts, Players, who gave as their first presentation three one-act plays. The next production will be a children's play, the third *You and I*.

Mrs. Hobbs also advocated the use of one-act plays for beginners on the ground that it is impossible for a beginner to sustain a character through two or three acts. In the opinion of Miss Elizabeth Grimball everything depends on the objective. If the purpose is the education of the public, a three-act play may well be used. On the other hand, if the education of the actors is the point at issue, one-act plays are best. There is a great need, Miss Grimball pointed out, for education in dramatic literature.

Another recommendation was that in a group of three one-act plays one may be given for the actors, two for the benefit of the audience. In Hagerstown, Maryland, a reading committee makes the selection of the play and secures the director to coach the cast. The choice of play depends on judgment in selection and should be considered both from the literary point of view and from the standpoint of a good performance.

The competitive idea in dramatics next came up for discussion and the experience of the Garden Players was cited by Clarence Perry, of the Russell Sage Foundation. Here the bill designed to bring out the best audience includes a comedy, a drama, a costume play, the purpose being to give all the artists an opportunity and to create a greater interest because of the variety of the program. Boston has a group of Inter-Settlement Players, including five dramatic groups made up of mothers. It is impressive to see the interest of the older women.

It was suggested by Miss Mary Freeland, Director of Community Centers, Stamford, Connecticut, that in the matter of competitive dramatics it is possible, experience has shown, to have a plan of competition in the matter of pageant episodes, each playground contributing one episode, the children studying the pageant carefully and making their own costumes and properties.

Competition in drama, it was the feeling of the group, creates much interest and helps develop a spirit of good sportsmanship.

The next discussion centered about the possibility of a dramatic program for boys of the "rough-neck" type and the question raised was *Should boys be included in plays and do they like them?* It was generally felt that boys do like plays, especially three-act plays. The object of the play is the big thing in which the boys are interested. The principal points which appeal to the boy are the appearance, technical skill and the group spirit. Emphasis was laid on the fact that boys should be given parts in plays which

\*Reports from the Recreation Congress, October 16-24, 1924



appeal to their interest. *Robin Hood* was cited as a splendid example.

At the second round table discussion George Junkin, Organizer of Community Drama, Playground and Recreation Association of America, served as Chairman.

The first question discussed was *If you can have one curtain for your stage, what color and material are best for all-round use?* A variety of suggestions were offered. In a community in Rhode Island a grey poplin cyclorama has been successfully used. The Little Theatre at Spring Lake Beach, New Jersey, uses a double curtain dark blue on one side, grey on the other. Boston Community Service has inexpensive curtains of misprint grey cretonne which can be obtained from Landers Bros., 143 Pearl Street, Boston, at 40c a pound. One pound averages three yards. Cartridge cloth at 15c a yard was also recommended. Knoxville, Tennessee, uses a double curtain made of sateen, blue on one side, grey on the other. This material, however, is quite expensive. One dramatic leader in discussing the color of the curtain said that with proper lighting he preferred black. He explained the effectiveness of arranging a cottage scene with straight drapes outlining windows and with curtains used for columns. Miss Elizabeth Grimbball recommended the use of grey if the lighting is good, otherwise horizon blue.

If there is little or no money and only one set of curtains, how can successful lighting equipment be managed? In answering this question Miss Nina B. Lamkin, of Highland Park, Michigan, stated that very often electric light companies are willing to loan the first lights. Miss Lamkin prefers to use grey outing flannel for curtains and four flood lights, with China silk supplying the colors if gelatin slides are not possible. A satisfactory set of lights may be obtained for \$18 from the Chicago Electric Light Company.

Bunch lights, it was suggested, often may be secured from theatres, which occasionally have discarded equipment which would be most helpful to a community group. The proper lighting of the dramatic action and the arrangement of the focus are important considerations in lighting.

Another question raised was *Is There Such a*

*Thing as a Satisfactory Portable Stage—if so, How and Why?* A delegate from Springfield, Vermont, described a very expensive portable stage in the gymnasium of their community house which for four years has given satisfactory use. The portable stage in Elmira, New York, was also described. When closed, the theatre resembles a small house on wheels, with doors at either end. By means of levers and pulleys one side can be dropped, allowing a stage 16 feet wide and 15 feet deep. Within ten minutes after the theatre is placed a play can be staged. It is fully equipped with ten footlights, three border lights, motion picture screen, piano and curtains cleverly arranged on rods which make it possible to change the stage settings when long plays are attempted.

Yellow pine was recommended as the wood to use in building a very strong stage and it was suggested that the Display Stage Lighting Company of New York City be consulted for information relative to stage lighting.

In answering the question *What Is the Best Way to Start a Community Players Group?* the experience was quoted of a community in New Jersey, where a selected group had been organized for a number of years as a players' group. The membership, however, was limited to a small circle and did not meet the demands or interests of the larger group interested. Following an announcement in the newspaper that a meeting would be held for community dramatics sixty people responded. The group organized and was divided according to their special interests in play-writing, play-reading, lighting, coaching and costuming.

Arthur Leland, of Newport, Rhode Island, told of the garden theatre, which he designed and laid out in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. The theatre which seats 2,240 cost \$5,000.

The suggestion was made that Arbor Day be used for the planting of outdoor and garden theatres.

In answering the question *Is It Better to Rent or Borrow Pageant Costumes in Order to Save Time?* Miss Higgins pointed out the values gained in making the costumes and stated that she considered the work-shop as important as the production itself.

"We think recreation is the cure for the restless spirit of the day. Sport rivalry, the only sign of a pure democracy movement in this country, is the best civilization insurance that America has discovered."—*Professor Ernest Groves, Boston University, April 22, 1924.*



# The Olympic Games and the American Playground

BY GUSTAVUS T. KIRBY

*One Time President, American Olympic Committee*

The 1924 Olympic Games were an object lesson which will have its effect upon American amateur athletics and playground sports, as well as upon international goodwill. The highest type of sportmanship was exhibited in Paris this year when the nations of the world met to test their skill and endurance on the fields of sport. The victors won modestly and the vanquished showed courage in defeat.

I believe that the Olympic Games are one of the greatest forces for peace, goodwill, and brotherly love that exists today. International games give to the man in the street as does nothing else an appreciation of how people elsewhere behave and think. The League of Nations might promulgate a hundred programs, the diplomats of the world might agree upon hundreds of humanitarian principles, but all these would not be so apt to get into the understanding of the masses of the people as do the sportsmanlike conduct, the friendliness and the fair play of the competitors in world contests like the Olympic Games. The man on the street does not have a real insight into the leagues and the treaties, but when he hears of a sports team representing his country coming through to victory with a "well played" to the vanquished, or going down to defeat with a cheer for the victors, something within him is stirred.

An incident which occurred at the Games this year illustrates the effect the sportsmanship of a team can have upon the sportsmanship of the nation it represents. After the American Rugby team had beaten the French, many of the French spectators "booed" and hissed at the victors. Not so, however, the French team for the members thereof, with fine Olympic sportsmanship and in the presence of the multitude, warmly congratulated the winners. This example of the players was so contagious that not only did the crowd show by a hang-dog air that they keenly realized the poor sportsmanship on their part, but thereafter during the entire Olympic contests, the French always had applause for the victors, no

matter what country they represented in the games.

Coming together in the Olympic Games, the nations had an opportunity for seeing the possibilities of development in sport far beyond their own national conceptions—a development not only in excellence of performance but in morale. They had an opportunity for observing how relatively good or bad they are at sports as nations.

Years ago a friend and I, traveling in Japan, came upon a tennis court which had been laid out in Kioto. The court was properly marked, but the net was sagging and the players were batting the balls back and forth much as one would do in a game of battledore and shuttlecock.

"May we play?" we asked, and the Japanese gave gracious assent. We tightened the net. We served the balls with speed, in our returns put on that twist which used to be called "Lawford," and used other tricks of the game American players, even beginners, knew. Finally,—*"We marvel!"* exclaimed our Japanese friends. They tried to do themselves the same things we had done, and for the first time saw what tennis really meant.

Today, Japan has phenomenal tennis players and is building up a tradition in the sport. As a nation, she has learned from other nations the ethics of the game much as those Japanese as individuals took a lesson from my friend and me that day. Other nations can learn from each other in the same way. America has much to learn about distance running from the Finns, whose remarkable Nurmi was the sensation of the games, being able to run apparently without effort or exhaustion and at a speed which brought to him new Olympic records in the 1500 meters and 5,000 meters as well as to win also the cross-country run and finish first in the 3,000 meter team race.

Some of the nations which are the newest at organized sports made an excellent showing at the games this year. The lean, brown Hindu athletes, with their queer top-knots of hair, went through the events with as fine a courage and spirit of fair play as any of their white opponents.

Besides creating international friendliness in this way, the Olympic Games foster world peace in another and perhaps deeper way. They provide a harmless and a character building outlet for the combative instinct of nations. The many minor contests in sports which the Games help to stimulate also give constructive expression to this instinct.

The combative instinct was given to man for protection. The cave man survived through the use of his fists and his club. There was no place for the weakling in the Stone Age society. As civilization progressed, we have the rise of the army. Weapons of warfare were invented, powder was discovered, and war in its modern sense became the national expression of the combative instinct and desire for conquest.

Today we wish to discourage war because it arouses men's hatreds and brings a terrible aftermath of disregard for law and morals. Still we want to retain that combative element which makes the difference between a namby-pamby person and a virile one. Sport is the answer. Properly directed, it not only gives an outlet for combative energies, but it makes for character. War breaks down, sport builds. When, as in the Olympic Games, we bring together representatives of the nations of the world for sports, we are placing the leaven of character in the hearts of the nations themselves.

Loyalty is one of the most precious qualities in the world. We appreciate this and use it in our playground, school and college athletics. Our cheering for teams is an expression of loyalty which also brings the non-contestant into the game. The Olympic Games are an expression of national loyalty.

The great democratizing force of sport was brought home in the Olympic Games. The teams had on them men rich as the fabled Croesus and poor as the proverbial Job's turkey. They came from all walks of life, but they were all equal at the Games.

The Games can prove to the American boy that true riches are not measured by the yardstick of worldly wealth, but by the happiness of attainment. More than ninety per cent. of the athletes on the American track and field team at one time attended the public schools of the United States. The Olympic athletes of tomorrow are in the public schools and on the public playgrounds of today.

To be an Olympic champion is a laudable ambition, as is the desire to be at the top in anything. If we can give the boy on the playground the

dream that some day he may be a great athlete, rather than a great warrior, we shall have sown seeds which will make for world peace rather than world conquest. Instead of playground soldiers on parade, smacking of the military, let us have a parade of athletes, following the Olympic standard of sport.

Assuming, as we all must, that we must be prepared to defend our country at all times and fight, if need be, for humanity's sake, I believe that the preparation for this comes better through athletic training than through military training. Athletics develop aggressiveness, loyalty, quickness and courage in a way that makes for character.

## Among Local Leaders



CHESTER GEPPERT MARSH

With her background and long experience in recreation in California and Middletown, Ohio, Mrs. Marsh was peculiarly well-fitted to fill the position of County Director of Recreation in Westchester County, New York, which was established in the spring of 1923. County Play Days, the establishment of playgrounds in communities throughout the county, the development of play in institutions, the organization of musical and dramatic groups, are only a few of the activities initiated by the Westchester County Recreation Commission, of which Mrs. Marsh is the executive.

# The Design of Swimming Pools as to Operation and Sanitation

By JACK HINMAN, JR.,

*Associate Professor of Sanitation, University of Iowa; and Chief, Water Laboratory Division,  
Iowa State Board of Health, Iowa City*

## PART II.

### FILTRATION AND CHLORINATION

If the tank is kept filled with clear, colorless water, the floor of a white-bottomed pool should be very easily seen. This is exceedingly advantageous. It enables the life-guards to keep a more efficient watch on the bathers and prevents the accidents which may result by a swimmer's sinking and the fact's not being noticed until too late. Of course, a thing like that is not very likely to happen when the pool is not crowded, but when the pool is crowded, the life-guards have their hands full to keep order and to watch the swimmers who are in plain view.

Continuous recirculation and refiltration are desirable for the purpose of keeping a pool water clear and in suitable condition from the standpoint of appearance, as well as in a sanitary state. Filtration alone is not regarded as ample protection, however. The heating and aeration that pool waters get causes a large part of the gases in the water to escape. Some of the calcium bicarbonate breaks up, the normal carbonate precipitates, and then we have a whitish turbidity, due to the precipitate. This condition is one which is most usually found in the indoor pool where a hard water must be heated. The calcium carbonate has a bad way of cementing the sand grains of the filter and so rendering the filtration less satisfactory.

It can be shown that refiltration and recirculation of pool water are desirable from an economical consideration. They allow waters to be used for a much longer period of time and so save in the first cost of the water and in the heat necessary to bring the pool of water to a usable temperature; and besides this, they lower the turbidity, and keep it down, in spite of the tendency for the carbonate decomposition to make the water turbid after use. Filtration removes bacteria, but not to a sufficient degree as ordinarily practiced. It must be supplemented

by some other means. This means the use of some germicidal agent.

The common germicidal agents are copper sulphate, chlorine (either as the liquefied gas, or as the hypochlorite of calcium or sodium), the ultra-violet rays, or ozone. With the last named process I have had no experience. I am conducting some experiments on the ultra-violet rays at the present time. My experience with the use of chlorine has been successful, although the chemical has to be handled with discretion, and persons are apt to claim that they can detect the odor of the chemical when it has not yet been used. Personally, I prefer the liquefied chlorine as being susceptible of more accurate and more workmanlike control. It is more expensive to install and operate apparatus for gas under pressure, but the gas does not deteriorate on storage as the hypochlorite does, and the apparatus, which must be handled with care, will stand up well if given a chance. Copper sulphate has some germicidal powers, but is most useful in keeping down the growths of algae or water scums which frequently bother the operators of open-air installations.

It is important to remember that while well-recognized methods of treatment help greatly in maintaining clean swimming-pool water, they do not in themselves insure a safe condition. The equipment must be properly and continuously operated and the supervision of the pool and bathers must be constant and careful.

### REMOVING DEPOSITS FROM THE TANK BOTTOM

A certain amount of dirt, lint, hair, will settle to the bottom of the tank after a time. Although this material is very offensive in appearance, and looks very black, it is only a very thin layer of fine, powdery deposit. It is not readily drawn toward the outlet during recirculation, and when an attempt is made to sweep it toward the outlet by means of weighted brooms, it rises into the water and dissipates, only to fall down



again when the currents have subsided. Then it looks just as bad as ever.

This dirty deposit may be removed with a sort of vacuum cleaner arrangement especially designed for such work. The water which is removed by the tool from near the bottom of the pool may be deposited either upon the top of the filter and the deposit strained out, or run into the scum gutter and the water and dust run together to the sewer. Whenever a new pool is constructed, some arrangement should be made to take care of these dirty-looking sediments. In an indoor pool with white tile lining, the dirt is very likely to make swimming in the pool unattractive, and its removal is quite a bit more important than in the outdoor pool, where it is not so noticeable.

#### WATER DILUTION AND POOL SAFETY

From the standpoint of sanitation, the material in the pool which is most likely to cause disease consists of the fresh secretions newly thrown off from the bodies of bathers. Some of the organisms that we fear the most are very delicate and highly specialized. They do not adapt themselves well to unfavorable conditions. Lower temperature and less abundant food than they find in the body constitute such unfavorable conditions. Among these fragile organisms are most of those that cause infections of the respiratory tract. The organisms that cause intestinal diseases, such as typhoid, are more resistant—though they, too, soon succumb in the fight for life against stronger organisms which they encounter in the pool. The common soil and water bacteria find conditions much more to their liking and they are stronger than the pathogenic forms.

As a result of this, the man who is in the pool with you is a more real danger to you than the man who was in the pool yesterday. To make the pool safe, there should be a rapid dilution of infective material and a correspondingly rapid carrying away of the dangerous substances toward the exit pipes. Any type of inlet and outlet that will accomplish this rapid dilution and allow the minimum dead water areas will be satisfactory.

But a word of caution is needed in regard to pool safety. Do all you can to make the pool safe; keep everything as clean as you can; still you are very likely to hear of ear and eye trouble among the users of the pool. A good deal of this is auto-infection. The bathers are carrying

the causative organisms on their own body surfaces, and when the maceration of the skin has reduced its resistance to the invading bacteria, they may enter and cause trouble. Rigid inspection of bathers is helpful, but it will not entirely remove this condition.

The maximum safety from dangers incident to unsanitary conditions must be given, but attractiveness, comfort and convenience are important, also. Hence, consideration should be given to toilets, locker-rooms, dressing cabinets and showers. They, and the arrangements for handling the towels and suits, need careful planning.

#### TOILETS AND SHOWER-BATHS

In order to avoid any possibility of the swimmers' voiding body wastes into the pool, adequate toilets should be provided and kept in such perfect sanitary shape that they will not leave in the mind of the patron the idea that they are likely to spread disease. The toilets should be in a place reached easily from the pool or from the shower-room. Indeed, the idea should be to make it easier for the patron to remember to use the toilet before going into the pool than for him to forget to do so. Signs in the shower-room or in the individual dressing and shower-booths should remind the person taking showers, or getting ready to do so, that the taking of an adequate shower-bath and the use of the toilet is expected in the interest of the sanitation of the pool.

Shower-baths, preferably with warm water, should be taken by all persons before going into the tank. Soap should be used. When possible, the bathing should be supervised by an attendant, who would also be able to make a superficial physical examination, excluding any one suffering from infections of the skin, colds and sore throat, and preventing anyone with an open wound from going into the water and endangering himself. It is easy to see that, if care is not taken to keep dirt and dangerous bacteria out of the pool, it will soon be necessary to let the entire poolful of water run down the sewer. It is economy to provide ample showers, and ample water at an agreeable temperature. Special devices intended to cause all patrons to walk through a shallow foot-bath of water and to pass under a shower have been devised and recommended. I have not had special experience with these, but I am convinced that adequate showers and actual inspection of bathers are most desirable.

## SWIMMING SUITS AND TOWELS

Towels and swimming suits are sure to pick up matters of a most undesirable nature. If the towels and suits are to be supplied by the pool management, they must be adequately cleaned and actually sterilized after each use. To fail to do this is to invite trouble. Skin diseases are very likely to be spread by suits and towels. Clean towels and suits should very carefully be kept from contact with soiled ones. They may even cause trouble if carelessly handled. In one epidemic of skin disease with which I am personally familiar, cleaned and sterilized towels were contaminated at the towel room of the pool. On checking up, it was found that the towels were brought back in the baskets in which they went to the laundry, and were piled in places occupied during part of the time by soiled towels and suits. They also came into contact with the soiled towels. More careful handling of the towels resulted in the disappearance of the trouble. A careless towel-room attendant may do a lot of mischief.

## AND DON'T FORGET ADEQUATE PARKING SPACE

Provision of adequate parking space for automobiles is an important matter nowadays. Two small a space necessitates undue crowding, with danger to cars in getting them out in leaving, and this makes many people reluctant to go to the pool. A safe and sufficient parking accommodation would have resulted in increased attendance at several pools last summer.

## COMMENTS BY DR. JOSEPH E. RAYCROFT OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

The writer suggests that the temperature of the water in indoor pools may be as high as 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Our experience indicates that the range of temperature is from 72 to 76 degrees Fahrenheit. When the temperature is above the latter figure, swimming tends to become enervating.

It would be helpful if the writer would differentiate more clearly between pools that are used mainly for bathing purposes by persons of different ages on the one hand, and pools which are adapted for both elementary instruction and swimming, diving and water games.

For the first type of use I believe that in the

long run it will be found more satisfactory to establish wading pools which are inexpensive and easily administered, and swimming pools ranging in depth from 3½ to 4 feet to 8 feet or more.

Scum gutters should not be constructed across the ends of pools that are intended for swimming contests, because of the danger of spraining hands and ankles when the men are making the turns in races.

I think that I was responsible for planning the first pool which had scum gutters on all four sides. After several years of experience I concluded that the scum gutters at the ends represented bad planning and that limiting the gutters to the sides gave good results from a sanitary point of view and avoided disadvantages which I mentioned above.

Swimming pool rooms which are not supplied with air ducts for mechanical ventilation can be made much more comfortable for both swimmer and spectator by the installation close to the ceiling of large fans with the blades so turned as to direct the current of air *against the ceiling* and thus keep the air well in motion without creating a draft.

## REPLY TO DR. RAYCROFT'S SUGGESTIONS BY MR. HINMAN

It is undoubtedly true that the temperature range from 72 to 76 degrees Fahrenheit is the best for active swimming. In women's and children's pools, temperatures higher than this have been preferred, especially when being used for instructional purposes. In a communication to the State Association of Sanitary Engineers read at Cincinnati, in May, C. G. Gillespie of California reported that the requirement of a low temperature was objected to by swimming pool operators in California as being a requirement applied only to indoor pools and he stated that the average of temperature in southern California pools was about 88 degrees Fahrenheit. In the paper I prepared I was referring more especially to the necessity of providing suitable expansion joints as it frequently happens that the thermostats or automatic temperature-control apparatus, are tampered with or do not operate properly and the temperature may thus be run up a number of degrees above the ordinary range,

with consequent expansion and possible damage to the tank.

Perhaps differentiation should have been more clearly made between pools intended for persons of different ages and those pools provided for instruction, swimming, diving, and water games. I doubt if wading pools will take the place of the public pool which provides for persons of all ages. The most common error in construction is to provide too great an area of deep water. While this applies primarily to outdoor public pools, it has also been met with in the indoor pools including those used for colleges.

I do not know who was responsible for the first pool with scum gutters on all four sides. It is very likely in my opinion that Dr. Raycroft is correct in his belief that his pool was the first. The men's pool at the University of Iowa does not have scum gutters on the ends, but the women's pool, which was constructed later, has scum gutters on all four sides. I have never heard of anyone spraining hands and ankles in our women's pool. Recently in Indianapolis I saw a type of scum gutter in use which I believe is actually dangerous, chiefly for the reason that it is so low and that there is a possibility of the swimmer's arm being thrown high enough to pass over the edge of the pool and allow his head to strike against the wall.

We have had some difficulty at the men's pool at the University of Iowa in getting prompt and adequate drainage from the scum gutter. Much better results have been obtained at the women's pool. I am not sure that the danger of spraining hands and ankles where the scum gutter is on all four sides outweighs the advantages of quick and adequate drainage of the water which is carried into the gutter.

Some other persons who are interested in pool matters do not agree with me as to the desirability of surrounding the pool by a raised edge, feeling that it may possibly be tripped over by the swimmers. I believe that if the edge were properly marked, that difficulty would largely be avoided and I am sure that the provision of a raised edge prevents scrubbing waters and floor drainage of an undesirable character from getting into the pool. I do not favor the plan of carrying scum gutter drainage to the recirculation system. It is more likely to carry specific infectious material than the water of the pool. It is true that the splashing of the water into the trough frequently washes out this scum gutter contents into the pool and therefore prompt drainage of the scum gutters is very important.

Dr. Raycroft's suggestion of fans near the ceiling of the pool room is an excellent one and will do much toward improving conditions in pool rooms which cannot now be supplied with forced ventilation.

In reply to Mr. Hinman, Dr. Raycroft writes, "aside from the question of who is responsible for the first pool with a flush gutter on four sides, the scheme is excellent for all pools except those used for competitive swimming. The gutter should be deep and relatively narrow rather than broad and shallow to limit backwash into the pool. Of course, the drain pipes from gutter should be very generous in size to provide for a quick flow.

"The desirability of a raised edge to protect the water in the pool from contamination by backwash from the floor, in my judgment, far outweighs any inconvenience that its presence may occasion careless pedestrians."

Charles W. Eliot, in writing to the *New York Times* about the life and work of the late Edwin Atkins Grozier, editor and publisher of *The Boston Post* since 1891, stated that Mr. Grozier in *The Boston Post* advocated every measure which he thought would contribute to the enjoyment of the children or bring more comfort or satisfaction in the lives of the common people. He believed that free parks, gardens, boulevards and beaches were the most legitimate and beneficent forms of public expenditure and always advocated such expenditures.

Mr. Grozier was one of a growing number of leaders who have been helping to build a better citizenship in America through editorial support.

The greatest obstacle to the progress and development of the playground movement is the discontinuity of memory. Few persons over thirty remember the feelings, thoughts and motives which governed them when they were ten. Childhood has to most persons become a closed book.

—DR. L. R. BURNETT



## From a Field Worker

I am having all kinds of thrilling experiences! We were snow bound in a little town called Reedsville from Monday until one-thirty Thursday night. It was the worst storm they had ever had. The train a mile ahead of us, was covered up with snow and the people had to abandon it. Our train was kept so we could get on and off. There were just two day coaches and a smoker and quite a number of passengers. There were very few children and no sick people or growlers so we got along fine.

The first night the women with children all got rooms in the village and the rest of us stayed on the train. The train crew were splendid and fixed us up bunks by taking all the seats apart. There were five girls left on the train and we had quite an experience. The next day people came down and invited all the women and some of the men to their homes so we had a wonderful feather bed the rest of the time. Two of us went to the home of a Lutheran teacher. We spent the day time on the train and had our meals at the hotel and store. The only trouble was that the town forgot that the country had prohibition! But everyone was really fine and the only difference was that sometimes the men were a little more cheerful than at other times!

The American Legion brought a large box of apples to us and gave us a box social and dance. I led some games and we had quite a party. One of the school teachers said that she taught all the children the same games the next day and we had a talk about her work so all the time was not wasted.

The Doctor, who is the American Legion Post Commander, got two wires out for me over a special wire strung up in a round about way for news only. He was very much of a live wire and signed up a number of men on the train for his Reedsville Post. (He wouldn't give them the desired prescription until they had their Legion button!)

Thursday night about one o'clock the big rotary snow plough reached us with sparks shooting away up in the air and snow flying in all directions. It was a beautiful sight.

Two of us had gained the friendship of the train crew and the engineer and fireman let us ride to Manitowoc on the engine. It was a thrilling ride and as we pushed through high banks of snow on both sides of the track, the windows in the engine were broken. The men gave us their coats but even so we were covered with ice and snow when

we reached Manitowoc, at a quarter of three in the morning. We found Manitowoc buried in snow and no kind of transportation possible so another girl and I followed about twenty traveling salesmen up to the hotel through high banks of snow.

Manitowoc has had the worst storm since 1881 so I am getting a splendid demonstration of a regular Wisconsin winter! Today it is snowing heavily and people are expecting to be buried again.

I have had more thrilling experiences during this past week that I have had in some time but I have had just about enough and hope we are not snowbound in Manitowoc now, or on the train again right away!

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## Spur Road to Community Flat

Community Flat in American Fork Canyon is a large camp ground over a mile long and from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile wide, with mountain streams the entire length. Covered with aspen and spruce it furnishes a splendid over night camp at the foot of the Forest Service trail up Mt. Timpanogos. A mile of spur road completed last fall makes this spot accessible to automobiles. The camp is in a large amphitheatre at the foot of the mountain and is very attractive in itself.

Thousands of hikers ascend Mt. Timpanogos every year. The completion of this road will make it more convenient and add immensely to the attractiveness of this hike.

It is difficult to imagine how a group of outdoor lovers could secure any more real wholesome enjoyment than by leaving Salt Lake about 4 o'clock some afternoon and driving up American Fork Canyon to Community Flat. Here they unroll their bedding under the aspen and by a mountain stream. After supper songs and yarns and a spirit absolutely free from care makes them almost forget they ever had a bed. Next morning at daybreak they start up the trail through limitless beds of wild flowers, past waterfalls and snow banks to the summit, 11,957 feet, where the view is uninterrupted for 200 miles around.

Coming down the mountain, as someone has aptly expressed it, "You arrive before your ideas." About supper time they start stringing back into camp, tired, but with a feeling of having accomplished something worth while and of having had an experience of a life time.

## Parks and Playgrounds in the West\*

The United States Department of Agriculture has recently published an interesting account of the work of small villages and farm settlements in the West in securing for themselves playgrounds.

The picture presented by Bulletin No. 1388 turns pity for the farmers (of the West, at least) into something like envy. If they have such enlightened ideas in regard to their playgrounds and display such courage, generosity, and organizing genius in acquiring them, why is it not to be expected that they will get for themselves eventually all the other good things of life?

Near Niagara, North Dakota, in the open country, is a farmers' park, financed, operated, owned, maintained, and used by farmers. These people did not see why they should sponge on a private owner for recreation grounds, nor did they approve of sending their boys and girls to town or village for their games and other outdoor fun.

A plot of eleven wooded acres along the Turtle River, costing \$2,200, was decided on as a suitable place. They organized a stock company called the Bachelors' Grove Community Park Association, incorporated it under State laws, and sold shares at \$25 each. When these were all taken up, it was found that ninety-five per cent. of them were owned by farmers, nearly every family in the region owning at least one share.

The first year saw the place only cleared of underbrush and fenced in. Estimates for further improvements figured out to \$16,000, despite the fact that much of the necessary labor had been volunteered. But the people soon realized that these improvements would pay for themselves, so they went ahead, and in a few succeeding years created ball-grounds, a dancing pavilion, and other buildings and recreational facilities.

\*Extract from *The Outlook*, August 20, 1924

Concessions are leased at a good profit. On the opening day five thousand people were in attendance. During the summer months there is, on an average, one huge organization picnic a week and on Sundays many small family picnics. There are frequent athletic games and contests between neighboring teams, and supervised dances in charge of the older people are given in the pavilion. Churches, boys' and girls' clubs, a Chautauqua, and other societies hold all their summer meetings here.

### THE VILLAGE AND THE PARK

Many small villages in the West have similar achievements to their credit. Gregory, South Dakota, for example, is now a place of only nine hundred inhabitants, and yet twenty years ago it set aside thirty-eight acres of the original town site for ultimate complete development as recreation grounds. During these twenty years trees have been planted, picnic grounds equipped, baseball and football grounds and tennis courts laid out, and a grandstand built. In 1922 two very large swimming pools were built. One section has been set aside for the hospitable accommodation of camping motor tourists.

Many other little hamlets in Kansas, Wisconsin, Michigan, West Virginia and other States have done work just as big and important in proportion to their size.

To any one who has worked on playground committees in the East it seems a miracle that such small communities should have the wisdom and spirit of progress sufficient to see the importance of outdoor recreation. "I never played baseball or climbed rocks and trees when I was young, and I do not see why my children should," is the answer one gets too often to appeals to citizens or politicians for more play space in town or country. Presumably, these wet blankets exist even in the West, but there they are obviously very much in the minority.

### SUCCESS — A TRAGIC FAILURE

Hugo Stinnes himself took no delight in food, had no ear for music, never read books, saw nothing interesting in nature and seldom was seen at the theater, although he numbered several of them among his possessions.

"My business," he would say, "so entirely occupies my mind that there is no room for anything else."

## Is Economy Economical?

In an enlightening article appearing in the *Journal of Education*, Dr. Henry S. Curtis points out a number of fallacies of the present day slogan for economy which, he says, makes no distinction between an expenditure which is an investment and an economy which means the cutting off of needless waste and graft. The cry of economy is founded on the belief that the city with a low tax will be a cheap city in which to live. Yet entirely the opposite may easily be true. For example, in seeking to reduce its tax rate a city would cut off more than a third of its taxes by closing the public schools. But, as a result of this, where it now costs a citizen \$50 or \$60 for the education of each of his children in the public school, it would cost \$500 or more for each child sent to private school. Similarly, police departments have added to the tax rate but they have also added to the value of all the property of cities and made them a cheaper place in which to live. These facts apply to practically all of our municipal departments and it is the introduction of these departments which make the modern city as distinguished from the city of a century ago. The city that strives for a low tax rate always cuts off these new departments and becomes inevitably a 19th century city instead of a 20th century one.

"Physical training and play facilities are among our latest municipal developments. It is these recent developments that always suffer most when a city sets out to be economical. It is in an effort to show this is unwise that this article is written.

"We are living in a period of great social unrest. Many of the workers in modern industry are engaged in tasks in which the spirit finds no reward. The discontent, which is so general, springs not so much from low wages as from a life which is scarcely worth the living. Where the work is unsatisfying there is the greater need for recreation and social life to compensate for joyless work. These can do more than anything else to make an industrial population contented.

"Where no social recreation is furnished, drink, sex and gambling always come to the surface. Social morality is at a low ebb in every dead community. If we saved 10 per cent. on our crime bill by furnishing adequate recreation systems for our young people it would give us about sixty dollars per capita, which is six hundred

times what our cities are now spending on recreation.

"At the Panama Exposition it was estimated by the Tuberculosis Society that the annual cost of tuberculosis to the people of this country was \$2,300,000,000 or \$23.00 per capita. The only cure is life in the open-air, and the development of the lungs by proper outdoor exercise. If we could give to every child the proper amount of open-air play, we could cut this bill in two at the very least in one generation. But 10 per cent. of our tuberculosis bill would give us \$230,000,000, enough to maintain all the playgrounds in the country for twenty-three years.

"When play was put in the program of the German schools they found that it reduced the absence from school on account of sickness from 15 per cent. to 50 per cent. The Life Extension Institute estimates the annual cause of preventable disease to the people of this country at \$1,800,000,000. The cost of an adequate physical education system could be saved from our doctors' bills alone.

"If we could develop the health and physique of all of our children by a proper system of exercise, we should add at least one year to the length of human life and probably much more. One year added to the lives of 20,000,000 children in the public schools would be 20,000,000 years. Valued at \$1,000 a year, the value of these years would be \$20,000,000,000 a year. If we credit only 10 per cent. of this to each year, it would give us a saving of \$2,000,000,000 a year, enough to maintain all the playgrounds in the country for two hundred years.

"If all the workers of this country were strong and well developed, this would add a certain amount to the industrial efficiency. If we suppose the working years of 20,000,000 children to be thirty and the value of these years to be \$1,000 each, we should have \$600,000,000,000 as the value of these working years. If an adequate system of physical education added only one per cent. to this, it would give us \$6,000,000,000, enough to maintain all the recreational systems of this country for six hundred years.

"In all of this we have said nothing of the value of happiness or winning the loyalty of the children and young people through an appealing social life.

"Finally, let us realize that the tax rate is a selective process which constantly sifts the citizenship of any city. The city with a low tax rate



is always an unattractive city to live in, as schools, parks and streets are in poor condition. This causes the progressive, capable people to migrate, while the shiftless and incapable remain. Such a city soon becomes a second-rate city. That policy is wisest for any city which attracts the intelligent and the capable. A city's wealth is always in close proportion to the intelligence of its people. If the earning power of its people is only \$500 per capita, a city will hardly increase in wealth, but, with an earning capacity of \$1,000, there will be an increase of from \$500 to \$1,000 in per capita wealth with each decade."

## Developing Recreational Leadership in Highland Park

The Highland Park, Michigan, Recreation Commission conducts a course in Recreation and Play Leadership in the Junior College at Highland Park which carries with it three points in the Physical Education Departments of the University of Michigan or the State Normal Schools. It is designed to train members of the Junior College, graduates of the High School and prospective recreation workers. The course takes up the theory of play with a full outline of the history of the play movement and its relation to education, the correlation of play with the school work of the child at different periods and its effect on his growth, the activities of the different age groups and the simple psychology and physiology of these activities, as well as the organization of materials and administration. Under this head comes instruction as to the method of making a survey, organization of different activities, studies of the Municipal Recreation Commission and its relation to all civic activities, the building of community interest in recreation, the development of not only the paid but the volunteer leader and presentation of the many special programs which all be worked out by the students under supervision.

Each student does one hour a week laboratory work with a supervisor the first semester and two hours a week the second semester. This work is done among the various groups organized under the Recreation Commission of Highland Park, including boys' and girls' clubs, playground groups, swimming, adult gymnasium groups, field groups in team games, tournaments, dramatic groups for all ages, Camp Fire Girls, Blue Bird

Girls, Boy Scouts and many other kinds of club work.

Some of the work in this course was begun in the Highland Park Municipal Camps at Platte Lake where special courses are being conducted in camp and field recreation which will also carry with it Junior College credits.

This course is conducted by T. H. Fewlass, Superintendent of Recreation, and Miss Nina B. Lamkin, Assistant, in charge of work among women and girls.

## The American Boy's Commonwealth

By

JOSEPH BERMAN

*Athletic Director*

The American Boy's Commonwealth of Chicago, in spite of the fact that it has neither a gymnasium nor swimming pool, has a membership of 600 boys and a record of having had more teams in outside competition than any other boys' club in the city.

The Commonwealth uses a gymnasium in the community two hours a week, the boys paying a nominal charge for its rental. A second gymnasium serves for the use of the boys one morning from 9:00 to 11:00. From 11:00 to 12:00 the boys have swimming instruction.

Some of the activities of the past year follow:

Four uniformed basketball teams have played out a regular schedule with the best teams. A "Peewee" and a senior swimming team have held dual meets, one swimming event being conducted each week. For fifteen weeks one track and field event was scheduled weekly, and interest in them ran high throughout the series. Additional activities have included volley ball and ice skating, a great many boys having competed in the various meets of the city.

The only athletic equipment at the Club is a wrestling mat used once a week for the large wrestling class. Novice and club championship tournaments were held, the wrestling team winning three dual meets, thereby gaining the junior wrestling title of Chicago. Boxing, too, has been a popular sport.

"Every boy a participant" is our motto, and the American Boys' Commonwealth is known throughout Chicago for clean athletics and good sportsmanship.

## Block Playgrounds in Newark

"Another chapter has been written in the history of block playgrounds in Newark," writes Robert K. Hanson, Director of Metropolitan Boys' Work, Rotary Club of Newark, New Jersey.

"This season there were ten street playgrounds in operation which provided activities for over 25,000 boys and girls in the vicinity of their homes and for hundreds of mothers and fathers, not only as spectators but as participants in the games. It was a common sight to see baby carriages parked along the curb with the mother or older daughter playing some of the singing games with their neighbors and the father of the family cheering his son in a game of *Poison Circle* or *Snatch*, only later to fall a victim of the germ himself. Soon he would be in the circle with his son, playing his hardest to show that he was not as old as his son might have suggested earlier in the evening at the dinner table. In one Italian district the older men of the community cleaned up a vacant lot so that they might play their national game *Botch*, while across the street their wives played games with the children.

"One of the outstanding features of the playground season was the special event marking the close of these block playgrounds. Each center chose the event it most desired. This promoted a fine community spirit and the results were far beyond the expectations of the originators of the plan. Several of the play centers had baby parades and a number doll contests for the girls and athletics for the boys. Still others had an

evening of competitive games with prizes for the winners.

"On each of the playgrounds there were two directors, one for girls, the other for boys. The games were grouped according to ages. On one end of the streets the little children would be playing *Charlie over the Water*, while the older sisters in the next circle were engaged in *Farmer in the Dell*. With the starting of the singing games the parents of the children would line the curb, watching with fond interest as their children circled in the games. Soon the wise director, scanning the spectators along the curb, would pick out one of the adults who, she felt, knew the game well enough to keep it going while she went to the next group to start the game. In this way many of the older people learned leadership and at the same time greatly enjoyed themselves.

"One of the popular games among the older working boys was cage ball, played with a volley ball. Games of cage ball and volley ball played by teams of fathers against sons proved keenly interesting.

"Half-pint bottles of milk were supplied at cost by the Newark Milk and Cream Company, and thousands of bottles were sold to children.

"A number of city departments helped. The City Department of Streets and Public Works insured the cleanliness of the streets by flushing them every night. The police were on guard against possible accidents, and the Fire Department kept in touch with the streets which were closed. Cooperation of these departments, together with the help given by private organizations, made possible a highly successful season."

### Should a Child Be Happy in School

From an educational system unlinked with the business of life we may, by the modern multiplication of trade and industrial and commercial secondary schools, swing to one too narrowly utilitarian.

William T. Root, professor of educational psychology at the University of Pittsburgh, puts the argument this way:

It is bad, exceedingly bad, philosophy to spend all of childhood preparing for adulthood and all of adulthood preparing for the hereafter. It is like the illusive *fata morgana* that tricked the early emigrant. The present has a right to exist for its intrinsic capacity to give joy, without apologies to the future. Part of the difficulty with school folk is bad philosophy; a failure to realize the justification of joy, pure joy, interest, pure interest—here and now, without any reference to future use.

The need is for education that yields the fullest and richest life values from the first day at school to the last day on earth.

—*Collier's*, December 15, 1923

## Battle Creek Head Endorses Play Movement

Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, guiding spirit of the Battle Creek Sanitarium with its three million dollars' worth of buildings and its eighteen hundred workers, together with the Battle Creek College which has nearly five hundred students in its physical education, home economics and nursing schools, believes in play for young and old.

"Of course leadership should be provided for the play of children. Play is as natural as eating, breathing, sleeping, or any of the other natural functions of mind or body. But just as children need to be guided and helped to eat, sleep and breathe properly so that the greatest amount of good may result therefrom, so they must also be guided and helped in their play by trained, experienced leaders in order that this function may contribute to the highest possible development of mind, body and character.

"Under present-day conditions playgrounds, rightly planned and properly supervised, are an absolute necessity in any community. And they are also an economy, and the community that fails to provide them simply loads itself up with a burden of expense resulting from the ill health, faulty posture and development, moral delinquency and other defects which invariably result from failure to make such provision."

And so firmly does Dr. Kellogg believe in the value of play that some years ago he started the playground movement in Battle Creek by buying and equipping at his personal expense a large playground, and constructing in it an excellent swimming pool. Until last summer, when it was turned over to the public schools for their use, he provided the necessary instructors and supervisors. Now, however, only the swimming instructors are supplied by him, but as this is the only swimming pool available for the use of the playground system of the city the swimming instructors have their hands full.

"Our cities must wake up to the needs of the children," continued the doctor. "I have forty-two myself and know something about them. No," he laughed, "they are not my own. I never had any so I adopted these, one by one as the years went by, and I couldn't estimate the happiness they have given me."

"Do adults need recreation?" he was asked.

"Of course, they do!" he declared emphatically,

"and the older ones need it more than the others. The trouble is that they play by proxy and devote their own energies to over-eating and other stupid excesses and then wonder why they have things the matter with them, and grow old before their time.

"Any middle-aged person who will can prove for himself that nothing will stop the advance of old Father Time as effectually as the playing of active games of the social recreation type, bowling on the green, horseshoe pitching, swimming, hiking, folk dancing and community singing, together with the many other simple forms of play that combine physical exercise with laughter and sociability.

"Yes, I know communities object to spending money for such purposes, yet the money that would be saved, to individuals and to the community as a whole, would far exceed the cost, and in addition there would be the pleasure to be derived from these advantages."

Dr. C. Heald, member of the Sanitarium staff and president of the Sanitarium Athletic Association, was another enthusiastic advocate of adult recreation.

"There is a direct relation between the lack of adequate recreation and physical and nervous breakdown," said he, "and one thing that must be done with a large percentage of the patients who come here is to teach them to play—to just relax, let go of their worries and responsibilities, and play. And it is doing the thing yourself that counts, not seeing other people do it.

"Functional nervous disorders and various other troubles always point to a need for regular physical play. This isn't the only thing, of course, but it always has to be considered.

"And we are consistent in this belief as to the value of recreation and apply it to our hundreds of employees as well as to the patients. Volley ball, indoor baseball and other activities are popular during the winter. We have two five-inning games an evening under an arrangement that makes it possible for four teams to participate, for participation and not looking on is what we are after. And our summer program is even more extensive.

"Doctors, department heads, carpenters, plumbers and bath attendants all play together on a basis of equality. Position is forgotten and we are men together learning to know each other better and also learning to be good sports with all that this means—self control, cooperation and fairness.



"It is what every community needs, for as people learn to play together they learn to work together and to understand each other better."

Dr. Heald specially recommended playground ball, volley ball and horseshoe pitching as outdoor summer games. These, he pointed out, involve but little expense or danger to participants, can be played by those not physically fit for more strenuous games, and have a high value from a physical and social standpoint.

Miss Anna Wells, head of the Welfare Department, told of the social recreation activities for the employees. Parties, moving pictures, musicals, lectures and numerous other activities designed to keep mind and body alert and active, and promote sociability are included in the program.

"We recognize so clearly," she explained, "that where mental and physical strain is involved, as it is in nursing and related work, the relaxation and change of thought induced by wholesome recrea-

tion is essential to maintaining efficiency and good spirits, and in protecting the general welfare of the worker."

## Playground Equipment Earned by the Daily Work of the Pupils

By ALICE L. HOLLAND

One of the problems that confront a small rural school is that of adequate equipment for the playground. My school was no exception. The schoolhouse was the community center, but nothing had been done to make it possible for us to have outdoor recreation for the children. School funds, as usual, were provided to meet regular needs only, among which playground equipment had never been listed.

Could the children earn the equipment? Do-

### TEACHING AND LEARNING

JAMES ROBINSON

The Survey, November, 1923

It is being found by those who embark in adult education that text books make almost no appeal to grown-ups, who are free to express their distaste for them.

Teaching is one thing, learning, as we are slowly coming to see, quite another. Teaching aims to be logical; learning is strangely illogical, or rather, has its own logic and its own effective methods which have hitherto been almost completely disregarded. The "principles" or "elements" of a branch of science are really the ultimate outcome of a knowledge of it, not the thin edge of the wedge which insinuates it into our minds.

Let anyone review what he has learned in life. He will find that his effective and living knowledge has come in the most informal and seemingly casual manner. It has crystallized about unexpected nuclei. Chance happenings have aroused interest, and interest has bred curiosity, and curiosity has begotten learning. Most of what passes for learning is a kind of pitiful affectation. The student says, "I have had" Latin or chemistry, or "I took" science or literature. All is safely in the past or the perfect tense, as if it were an attack of pleurisy or a boil.

On the other hand when one of Mr. Wells' hundreds of thousands of readers has finished his Outline of History he does not say, "I have had history" and—in his heart—"I hope never to have it again." And why? Because Mr. Wells manages to humanize the past of mankind. He may make mistakes, from the standpoint of the special student; he may make rash conjectures and display personal preferences in commenting on Caesar or Napoleon, but people who had never realized the general way in which man came about, or how writing originated; had never thought of Gautama, the Buddha, or the origin of the Bible, feel, as they read, something really happening in them, and with the new knowledge things never seem to them again as they seemed before. This constitutes learning.

\* \* \* \* \*

The history of man's achievements and growing understanding of himself and his world could be made a branch of study beginning early and running through all the years of school and college. For, as Francis Bacon said, the history of the world without the story of man's education is like a figure of the mighty giant Polyphemus with his single eye left out.

ing the janitor work was suggested. It would be necessary to devise a plan that would remove the prosaic element from the work and make a direct appeal to the pupils. If this could be carried out it would furnish a neat sum each year toward the equipment of a formerly bare playground.

A plan was suggested and adopted without a dissenting vote. The sixteen pupils naturally divided into three groups: the primary grades, the older boys, and the older girls. The boys were to prepare the kindling and bring it in with the wood for fire; they were also to do any general repairing about the school that might be needed from time to time. The girls were to sweep, dust, and wash the blackboards. Erasers and crayons were to be cared for by the smaller children. Two from each group were appointed to their respective tasks for each week, and each of the older groups elected a captain to see that the work was done. The younger children needed no reminding, as they were inclined to overdo their part.

Once a quarter classes were dismissed for a half-day for a general "clean-up," when the boys looked after the yard and rearranged the pictures on the walls of the schoolroom, and the girls washed the windows. Light refreshments were provided by the teacher at this time.

Earning the money is only half the story. It is equally important to plan its investment. In fact this is the motive that makes the plan a success. Again three groups were formed, this time by grades, and each group elected a representative. These representatives, acting with the teacher and a secretary, who was elected by the school, formed a committee to decide upon and purchase the equipment.

The interest of the children in obtaining playground equipment had a good effect on the parents. The mothers prepared the dinner when the fathers came with their teams and scrapers to put the ground in good condition. Tennis, baseball, basket ball, and volley ball are being played in their seasons, and a marked improvement in the appearance of the pupils gives evidence that the wholesome recreation is bearing fruit.

The playground equipment has proven beneficial in many ways. It has not only aided the children physically, and through them benefited the homes, but it has made a direct contribution to the community spirit. Best of all it has helped to teach the children thrift, industry, business methods, cooperation in production and owner-

ship, and representative government—factors that are essential to our nation's future well-being.—*From Normal Instructor and Primary Plans*, October, 1924.

## The Establishment of Official National Horseshoe Pitching Records

By

B. G. LEIGHTON, *Secretary*

*National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

In five years there has been a wonderful development in the playing of horseshoes by both individual players and players en masse. Until recently no records, authentic or otherwise, had been kept of the progress being made in the playing ability of the players. With the rapid standardization, however, of the game of horseshoes, which is now emerging from the pioneer and experimental stages, comes the realization of two big factors important in the development of the game. They are:

1. The scientific method of throwing the shoe.
2. The general use of a standard score card.

Since the discovery by George May, of Akron, Ohio, that by holding the shoe on the side instead of holding it with a finger around one of the toe calks, as was the custom, much better results could be secured, there has been a great improvement in pitching everywhere. What is more important in the development of the game, however, was the originating in 1923 of a scientific score card through the use of which an accurate record may be kept of each player's throw by innings. The card shows the points scored, the ringers and double ringers made, the number of shoes thrown and the percentage of ringers made. Not only is it possible to know when a record has been broken but each player can accurately measure the improvement made in his play and players can be easily classified according to their ringer ability. This method of scoring makes possible in the case of team competition the use of a handicap system which, it is predicted, will be the third big development in the horseshoe game.

From time to time national records have been reported established and broken. Usually it was a guess. Under what conditions a game was played, who the officials were and who witnessed

the game were facts never reported. In most cases the supposedly new record was made in a contest not sanctioned, scores were kept in a haphazard manner and no report was made to the national association. Plans are now under way for recognition of records made at other than national tournaments. The compilation of official national records shows distinctly the progress being made in pitching. In 1919 it was thought that only one record could be made in horseshoe pitching. Today eight different records have been established and the prediction of a ninth record has been made. Not only is it possible to establish records for the game as a whole but also for each of the five classes of players—men's professional, women's professional, men's amateur, women's amateur and boys' amateur classes. The writer predicts that the perfect game in horseshoe, played by two contestants and tournament competition, one of the players scoring seventeen or more consecutive ringers for a total of fifty-one points, will soon be a reality.

## Horseshoe Pitching in Flint, Michigan

The municipal horseshoe courts in Flint, constructed by the Recreation Department of the Park Board, are proving a great asset to the recreation of the city. Since they have been completed a four-team league has been holding its weekly contest on the new courts and the second annual horseshoe tournament held there with more than thirty entries proved a great success. Factory laborers, foremen, superintendents, business men and city and county officials played in the tournament. Each night during the tournament several hundred spectators watched the contest. The winner was presented with a trophy from the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

There are twelve concrete courts, tile drained, with foul lines for both men and women pitchers. Overhead lights have been installed and a low wire fence built to protect spectators. Night pitching has been made a specialty. Saginaw Valley matches are now being arranged for one afternoon and evening a week.

The courts are free, no fee nor membership being charged for their use. There is, however, a Horseshoe Pitchers' Association with \$1.00 a year membership, organized for the purpose of promoting the sport. This organization is steadily growing and is aiding materially in the development of the game.

## For the Question Box

Here is an inquiry from a worker who is looking for light.

"We need information on semi-professional leagues and their use of municipal parks. We face the problem here growing out of the fact that the city is interested in a semi-professional league while the parks and schools are endeavoring to confine all their activities to purely amateur games. The difficulty arises over the use of a city park for the professional games."

Who will help answer this question?

"Do you have any records showing the uses to which community buildings are being put? We are particularly interested in musical, dramatic and other art phases of such use, stressing particularly the number of art efforts, the size of audiences, the effective results secured by an increased demand and interest, and similar phases of a project of this kind."

## Recreation Executives' Meeting

(Continued from page 523)

may be found another aspect of the health problem.

The question was raised as to whether it should be the function of the recreation department to provide camps for undernourished children. The consensus of opinion was that this is not the proper function for the recreation department.

### SESSION IV

F. S. MATHEWSON, *Chairman*

*Superintendent, Recreation Commission*

Plainfield, New Jersey

*What Apparatus Is of Most Value? What Are the Relative Dangers of the Various Pieces of Apparatus? What Is the Minimum Amount of Apparatus Which Should Be Placed on the Playground?*

The discussion of this question was opened by Mr. Raymond, of Minneapolis, who stated that in his opinion there should be more apparatus play because of the physical development possible through apparatus and gymnastic activities. The giant stride, Mr. Raymond said, has been dropped from the Minneapolis playgrounds, and in that city it has been found that the slide 14' to 16' high is one of the most pleasing pieces of apparatus and one which has caused no trouble. Among the desirable pieces of apparatus, Mr. Raymond mentioned a double set of gymnasium frames, swings, teeters, traveling rings, horizontal ladder and small slides for girls; for boys a horse buck, high bar, swinging ropes and high ladder. On the Minneapolis playgrounds there are merry-



go-rounds but no trick apparatus. There should be a program of gymnastic work and apparatus for other than small children and the instructors should know how to use the apparatus.

C. H. English told of the results of a study of accidents on the school playgrounds of Chicago covering a period of nine months—January to September 30th. The total average attendance during this period was over 5,000,000. There were 66 accidents on apparatus, 23 accidents in the playing of games and 17 miscellaneous accidents, making a total of 106. The pieces of apparatus on which the accidents occurred and the number of accidents are as follows:

Circle Bar .....	1
Horizontal Bar .....	2
Parallel Bar .....	2
Slanting Ladder .....	11
Teeter Ladder .....	9
Pole Ladder .....	2
Teeter Totter .....	4
Ocean Wave .....	2
Swinging Rings .....	6
Athletic Slide .....	10
Lawn Swing .....	11
Rope Swing .....	3
Giant Stride .....	3

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Total 66

Mr. English stated that two Chicago boys recently lost their lives on the lawn swing. There has been some question on the part of the Bureau of Recreation of the Chicago Board of Education of the desirability of the giant stride.

To impress upon the children the importance of the right use of apparatus those who deliberately use it incorrectly are expelled for a two-week period.

On the question of liability for accident one executive stated that suits against the city are very likely to be won unless it can be proved that workers were on the job when the accident occurred. If it is possible to prove that they were doing everything in their power to prevent accidents, recreation departments should not be held liable. Whenever it is possible to show negligence or defective apparatus, the city may be held responsible. State laws, however, vary in regard to the matter and the age of the party does not free the city from the responsibility. It is always wise, it is suggested, to have printed rules relative to the use of the apparatus and the

grounds placed where all may see them and to indicate the range of responsibility.

C. E. Brewer discussed the question *How Much Landscaping and What Type of Landscaping Should Be on the Playground?* The element of beauty, he said, must not be overlooked in playground planning and there should be as much landscaping as can be had without decreasing the amount of free play space. There is no place on the playground for flower beds except possibly in irregular corners, and a recreation department ought not to spend much money on them. Where shrubs are desired as screens the fence should be set back and the shrubs planted between the fence and the sidewalk but not close enough to the sidewalk to interfere with pedestrian traffic. Trees should be planted along the fence or the border of the playground and near the apparatus, sandboxes and places where handcraft activities are carried on. Such trees should be of the variety which grow quickly and provide dense shade.

All playgrounds should be fenced not only because fences improve the appearance of the playground and the abutting property but because they are a safety first measure. Children are not apt to run heedlessly off the playground and under the wheels of traffic if there is a fence around the ground. Fences also reduce the problem of landscaping as flowering vines, rambler roses and other climbing species of plants along the fence greatly improve the playground.

Surfacing is a big problem. It is difficult to make grass grow when it is being constantly trampled down, but a bare playground is unattractive and the dust a nuisance to the neighboring houses. A suitable playground surface must be porous enough for drainage yet firm enough to stand up under constant use when it is wet and not raise a dust when it is dry. Gravel, cinders and cement have not proven satisfactory. Asphalt is too expensive and hot.

Detroit has found that a surfacing of limestone screenings and calcium chloride has proven very satisfactory. It is porous, drains easily and can be used immediately after a rain. It does not develop soft spots and it is soft after a thaw, yet packs down readily after the frost is out of the ground. This surfacing has a foundation of 4" of hard cinders wet down and rolled with a steam roller, the cinders being kept wet during the rolling process. Next, limestone screenings are applied to the depth of 3". This surface is also wet down and rolled to a true grade with a horse-

(Continued on page 557)

# The Playground World Endorses Everwear

We exhibited a part of our line of playground apparatus at the 1924 Congress of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, held at Atlantic City, and while our steadily increasing business testifies to the growing popularity of Everwear, yet the unsolicited endorsements we there received were extremely gratifying.

It is natural that we should believe in Everwear Steel Playground Apparatus, since we make it, but to hear the enthusiastic stories of those who use it daily on their playgrounds, year in and year out, is, after all, the thing which interests you.

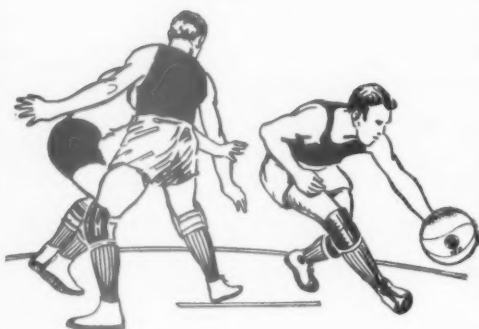
Without exception the friends of Everwear, who visited our exhibit, spoke of its safety, its durability, its beauty or its playability and stated that they were determined to continue to standardize on it alone, as it alone rendered the type of play and recreation service which they desired for their playgrounds.

The best possible advertisement for Everwear Steel Playground Apparatus is found in the comments of those who have learned to know it through working with it. Ask them!

Are you using Everwear Steel Playground Apparatus on your playgrounds, or is this one pleasure, one satisfaction, deferred?

May we send our catalog as your guide in future purchases of playground equipment?

**The Everwear Manufacturing Co.**  
**Springfield, Ohio**



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**Foot Ball.** The Spalding No. J5 Official Intercollegiate Foot Ball—the ball played in all important contests.

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Send for a copy of the Spalding Fall and Winter Catalogue. Contains pictures and prices of everything for every sport. Mailed free.

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## Book Reviews

**THE PHYSIOLOGY OF EXERCISE** by James Huff McCurdy, M.D., M.P.E. Published by the American Physical Education Association, Springfield, Mass. Price \$3.00

Dr. McCurdy has brought to the writing of this book years of practical experience and of research in the field of physical education. His book based as it is on experience and definite knowledge constitutes a most practical guide on the physiology of exercise. It performs a real service in setting forth facts as they are now known about the workings of the body under stress.

**ROADS TO SOCIAL PEACE** by Edward Alsworth Ross, Ph.D., LL.D. Published by the University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Price \$1.50

To promote social peace is the object of Professor Ross in writing this volume, which reflects the author's usual directness and willingness to face facts. The analyses of situations which at present are disturbing the social peace of the nation and the suggestions of ways in which peace may be secured and made permanent are exceedingly stimulating. The main topics discussed are: *The Avoidance of Sectionalism, the Quenching of Sectarian Strife, the Promotion of Peace Among Nationalities, the Mitigation of Class Struggle and the Allaying of Town-Country Conflict.*

For the community worker interested in citizenship building among foreign and native born, the book offers much that is helpful.

**OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ATHLETICS 1924-25.** Published by the American Sports Publishing Company, 45 Rose Street, New York City. Price \$0.25

The 1923-24 issue of the Official Handbook of the National Committee on Women's Athletics of the American Physical Education Association is now ready for distribution. This booklet marks a distinct advance over the first handbook in that the work of another year of experimentation and research has enabled the Committee to speak with greater authority on certain much discussed problems of athletics for girls and women.

The booklet contains the records of actions taken and policies adopted by the Women's Committee, special articles relating in general to girls' athletics and official rules for the athletic activities most recently taken over by the Committee for standardization—swimming, track and field athletics and soccer. It also contains a statement regarding the work of the Women's Division of the National Amateur Athletic Federation, whose activities in the creating of standards for women's athletics and in program-making has aroused much interest.

Every recreation worker should have as a working tool a copy of the handbook.

**AMATEUR CIRCUS LIFE,** By Ernest Balch. Published by Macmillan Company, New York City. Price \$0.75

A fund of information is available in this book regarding the amateur circus program, the preparation for it, costumes and discipline, clown work and all the various fascinating activities which make up the amateur circus. But the most interesting feature about the book is the fact that the author has built up around the circus idea a method of physical development based on the ten elements of simple tumbling.

**THE PROGRAM OF SPORTSMANSHIP EDUCATION.** By S. C. Staley, Bureau of Educational Research, Circular No. 28, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.

That good sportsmanship is the product of a program of education is the thesis of this pamphlet which suggests the following methods of carrying on such a campaign of education: The education of members of the faculty; the annual election of a sportsmanship committee; the annual discussion and adoption of a code of sportsmanship; the conduct of an annual sportsmanship contest; the annual recognition of the best sportsmen;





## Where Large Numbers of Children Gather

in open places Solvay Calcium Chloride should be applied to the surface in order to prevent discomfort caused by dust.

### SOLVAY CALCIUM CHLORIDE

is being used as a surface dressing for Children's playgrounds with marked satisfaction.

It will not stain the children's clothes or playthings. Its germicidal property is a feature which has the strong endorsement of physicians and playground directors. Solvay Calcium Chloride is not only an excellent dust layer but at the same time kills weeds, and gives a compact play surface. Write for New Booklet 1159 Today!

### THE SOLVAY PROCESS COMPANY

WING & EVANS, Inc., Sales Division

40 Rector Street, New York

the education of the general public and constant vigilance on the part of the adult leaders and the sportsmanship committee.

The pamphlet also discusses the question, "Should sportsmanship be recognized in competitive athletics?" and takes up the amateur honor code in competitive athletics.

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY DANCE HALL COMMITTEE OF THE WOMEN'S CITY CLUB AND THE CITY RECREATION COMMITTEE. By Maria Ward Lambin. Published by the Advisory Dance Hall Committee, 22 Park avenue, New York City. Price \$0.25

In 1909 the Committee on Amusement Resources for Working Girls made an investigation of the amusement resources of adolescent girls in New York City. As a result of the investigation and the work which followed it, the first law licensing and regulating dance halls was passed. Since 1911 when the first law became operative, many changes have taken place. The most vicious type of dance hall which was really the meeting place for the underworld has been more or less completely wiped out.

The Committee on Amusement Resources went out of existence as such about nine years ago, but from time to time investigations have been made and cooperation effected between the Department of Licenses and some of the social agencies interested. Recently a group of these agencies interested in recreation and prevention of delinquency met under the auspices of the City Recreation Committee to take action on the complaints of conditions in dance halls made by various agencies dealing with girls. Mrs. Belle Linder Moskowitz was made Chairman of a Dance Hall Advisory Committee appointed to survey existing conditions. In 1923-24 the investigation was carried on by Maria Ward Lambin and a group of volunteers. The results of this study are now available together with a number of recommendations. The material published in the report will be of very practical value to cities throughout the country.

WISCONSIN READING CIRCLE ANNUAL. Issued by the State Reading Circle Board, Madison, Wisconsin

The 1924-1925 Annual of the Wisconsin Reading Circle which has just appeared contains much in the way of practical and helpful suggestions for books for young people's reading circles. The arrangement according to grades and high schools is particularly helpful. Classifications are made under the subjects: Easy Reading and Picture Books, Stories and Readers, Animal and Nature Stories, Things to Make and Do, Men and Deeds of Many Lands, Literature and Folk Lore, Mythology, Useful Arts and Fine Arts, Science and Nature, Travel and Adventure, Biographies, Natural Science and Animal Stories, Fiction and similar subjects. The Annual also contains suggestions and bibliographies for the Wisconsin Teachers' Reading Circles and School Patrons' Circles.

OLD TUNES, NEW RIMES AND GAMES. By Mari R. Hofer. Published by A. Flanagan Company, Chicago, Illinois

Not a recent publication but a very helpful one is this book of Miss Hofer's, whose books *Singing Games Old and New* and *Popular Folk Games and Dances* have long been used in kindergartens, grades and on playgrounds. "Dancing steps," Miss Hofer says, "are only the run, walk, hop, of our childhood polished into artistic beauty." This she has kept in mind in the selection of the thirty-one games which with music make up this inexpensive booklet.

THE WORLD'S BEST CONUNDRUMS AND RIDDLES OF ALL AGES. By J. Gilchrist Lawson. Published by George H. Doran Company, New York City. Price \$2.00

To the leader of social gatherings who realizes how easily and effectively riddles may be used as ice breakers and to fill in gaps in the program, this book will make its appeal. Thousands of conundrums have been brought

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**MACHINE DRAWING PROBLEMS.** By Berg and Elleson. Published by the Manual Arts Press, Peoria, Illinois. Price \$1.60

For the boy who is interested in machinery this book will make its appeal. Its purpose is to provide text matter and a course of problems embodying some of the fundamental elements of machine construction. The problems have been so chosen as to acquaint the student with the most common principles and materials used in machine construction and to offer training in the making of complete drawings of machine details and small machines.

**GOLF GUIDE.** Spalding's Athletic Library No. 3 R. American Sports Publishing Company, New York City. Price \$.25

The *Golf Guide* occupies the same place in the game that the other annuals of the Spalding series hold in their respective sports. Pictures, records and matters of general interest comprise the contents. A new feature of this year's Guide is the chapter entitled *Blind Word Traps and Hazards in the Golf Rules*. The playing rules are printed in a novel, detachable form, permitting of extraction from the main portion of the book.

**NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FOOT BALL RULES 1924.** Spalding's Athletic Library No. 200R. American Sports Publishing Company, New York City. Price \$.25

Collegiate reviews, scholastic reviews, a record section and the official play rules in a separately bound, detached form, make up this official intercollegiate foot ball guide, the latest addition to the Athletic Library.

## Magazines and Pamphlets Recently Received

*Containing Articles of Interest to Recreation Workers and Officials*

### MAGAZINES

**Parks & Recreation**—September-October, 1924  
Shreveport's Golf Course, by David G. MacMillan  
A Feasible Plan to Finance Municipal Golf Links without Taxing the Public, by Theodore Wirth  
Miami's Parks

**Child Welfare Magazine**—October, 1924  
A Commission on Recreation, by Mrs. Hogue Stinchcomb

This article describes the recreation work being done in Highland Park, Michigan

**The Common Good**—August 30, 1924  
Boys' Club and School Number

**Hobbies**—October, 1924  
This issue contains a list of slides available from the Visual Education Department of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences.

**Nation's Health**—October, 1924  
Playgrounds, Past and Present

**Motor View**—October, 1924  
What Are Our Children Worth? by William F. McDermott

This article describes the extensive program of organized recreation being carried on in the schools of Chicago by the Bureau of Recreation of the Board of Education. Many interesting activities are described.

### PAMPHLETS

**Child Labor on the Stage in San Francisco**—Published by The Juvenile Protective Association, 995 Market St., San Francisco, Calif.

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*Annual Report of the Board of Public Recreation of Stamford, Conn., September, 1923-1924*

*Annual Report of the Parks and Recreation Commissioners of Worcester, Mass., 1923*

*The Influence of Zoning on the Design of Public Recreation Facilities—By C. E. Brewer*

Published by the American Society of Civil Engineers

*Thrift Education—A report of the National Conference on Thrift Education held in Washington, D. C., June 27 and 28, 1924.*

Obtainable from The National Education Association, 1201 Sixteenth St., N. W., Washington, D. C. Price 50c

*Thirtieth Annual Report of the Park Commissioners of Fitchburg, Mass., 1923*

*How to Organize and Conduct a School and Community Fair.* By Amanda Stoltzfus, University of Texas, Bulletin No. 2409, Austin, Texas

*City of Milwaukee—Report of the Common Council for 1923*

*Annual Report of the City of Clarksburg, W. Va., for the year ending June 30, 1924*

*Vote for Proposition No. 1—A pamphlet explaining to the voters of New York State the \$15,000,000 bond issue to be used for establishing new state parks and improving the existing ones. Available from The New York State Council of Parks, 302 Broadway, New York City*

## Recreation Executives' Meeting

drawn roller. Calcium chloride is applied at about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pounds per square foot. Following this,  $\frac{1}{8}$ " of sharp torpedo sand is put on. The calcium chloride absorbs moisture from the air and forms a binder with the sand and limestone screenings, giving a smooth, white, dustless finish to the playground.

Buildings are essential to the playground. It is better to have buildings of brick, steel or cement than of wood. The design of the building should conform architecturally to the surrounding buildings. Detroit has twelve shelter houses which are lighted through the roof. They are constructed of concrete and wire cut brick and all plumbing equipment is automatic without valves or fixtures which can be destroyed. Each of the houses is 20' x 20' containing a store room, drinking fountains and lavatories for boys and girls.

### *Report of the Resolutions Committee*

The Resolutions Committee, composed of Jay B. Nash, of Oakland; Dr. William Burdick, of Baltimore, and C. Seymour Bullock, of South Bend, Indiana, presented the following resolutions:

Resolved: That the playground executives express their appreciation of the provisions made for



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this conference at the Atlantic City meeting of the Playground and Recreation Association of America in 1924 and request that a similar conference be provided in the program of subsequent Congresses.

This resolution was passed.

Resolved: That the Playground and Recreation Association of America be requested to appoint a committee composed of members of this Superintendents' conference, who shall propose a plan for the playing of inter-city baseball. That this committee be instructed to formulate rules and regulations under which such inter-city games shall be played.

This resolution was passed.

Resolved: That the Superintendents of Recreation assembled at Atlantic City offer their personal services in the promotion of wholesome recreation in industries in the various communities where they reside, and

Be It Further Resolved: That the Superintendents offer their services to promote recreational activities in the various communities adjacent to the city where they are employed.

This resolution was passed.

Resolved: That the giving of cash or merchandise prizes for the promotion of play and recreational activities be vigorously disapproved.

Resolved: That prizes which may be in any sense considered as rewards or desired for their intrinsic value shall be discouraged as a method of organization in play and recreational activities.

These two resolutions created a great deal of discussion, some of the executives feeling it should be limited to the promotion of formal play or to activities promoted by the recreation department and not to community activities such as Fourth of July and Hallowe'en celebrations.

As a result of the discussion of these two resolutions they were laid on the table.